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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CURBELO of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 27, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CARLOS CURBELO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

TEXANS IN THE FORGOTTEN WAR: KOREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, an armistice was signed 62 years ago today to signify the official end of the Korean war. It was July 27, 1953.

This first conflict of the cold war occurred when communist North Korea invaded South Korea 3 years earlier.

The defense of South Korea was supposedly a U.N. action, but as history shows, the United States, unprepared for this war, took the brunt of the fighting, along with the South Koreans.

In the end, the war resulted in a cease-fire until both sides could ''find a peaceful settlement.'' No settlement has ever occurred.

This war has been referred to as ''the forgotten war.'' It is barely mentioned in our textbooks. Over 50,000 Americans were killed; 1,700 of them were from Texas.

Thirteen Texans went above and beyond the call of duty in Korea. They received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their valor. Ten of them were killed in combat.

Major George Andrew Davis, Jr., United States Air Force. While flying his F–86 Sabrejet, he and his wingman attacked 12 MIGs to protect a squadron of U.S. bombers.

After shooting down two MIGs, he continued the fight until he was killed. His actions resulted in the U.S. bombers successfully completing their mission.

Staff Sergeant Ambrosio Guillen, United States Marine Corps, was killed 2 days before the cease-fire. He turned an overwhelming enemy attack into a disorderly retreat while supervising the defense of his position, the treatment, and evacuation of the wounded.

Private First Class Jack G. Hanson, United States Army. While covering the withdrawal of his fellow soldiers, Hanson, alone, manned his machinegun to stop the enemy attack. He was later found surrounded by 22 of the enemy dead. His machinegun and pistol were empty and his hand clutched his machete.

Hospital Corpsman John E. Kilmer, United States Navy. In helping defend a vital hill position during an assault, he braved enemy fire to aid the wounded and was killed while shielding a wounded marine with his own body.

Corporal Benito Martinez. Electing to remain at his post during an attack, he inflicted numerous casualties against an enemy onslaught and refused to be rescued because of the danger involved to his other fellow troops. His stand enabled troops to attack and regain the terrain. He was in the United States Army.

First Lieutenant Frank N. Mitchell, United States Marine Corps, led a hand-to-hand struggle to repel the enemy, led a party to search for the wounded, and singlehandedly covered the withdrawal of his men before being fatally shot.

Private First Class Whitt L. Moreland, United States Marine Corps. During an attempt to neutralize an enemy bunker, he covered an oncoming grenade with his own body. His self-sacrifice saved the lives of his fellow Marines.

Second Lieutenant George H. O'Brien, Jr., United States Marine Corps. While wounded during an attack against a hostile enemy, he refused to be evacuated and continued in the assault. He set up a defense, aided the wounded, and covered the withdrawal so no one was left behind.

Corporal Charles F. Pendleton, United States Army. He was mortally wounded by a mortar burst while heroically manning a machinegun and carbine during multiple waves of enemy attacks.

First Lieutenant James L. Stone, United States Army, led his troops in a last-ditch stand of a vital outpost. He exposed himself to enemy fire to direct his platoon. When the final overwhelming assault swept over their position, a mortally wounded Lieutenant Stone urged his men to continue the fight.

Master Sergeant Travis E. Watkins, United States Army, led 30 men of his unit when surrounded by the enemy. Through his leadership, a small force of those 30 men destroyed nearly 500 of the enemy before abandoning their position. A paralyzed Sergeant Watkins refused his evacuation, as his condition would slow down his comrades.

Corporal Victor Espinoza, United States Army. During an attack, he singlehandedly destroyed an enemy machinegun, mortar position, two bunkers, and tunnel, taking a heavy toll on the enemy, with at least 14 dead and 11 others wounded.

Master Sergeant Mike C. Pena, United States Army. After ordering his men to fall back during a fierce attack, he manned a machinegun to cover their withdrawal. He singlehandedly held back the enemy until the next morning, when his position was overrun and he was killed.

Mr. Speaker, 62 years later, on this day, we remember the sacrifices of these Texas Medal of Honor recipients and other Americans in the forgotten war.

The Korean War Memorial down the street appropriately depicts 38 uniformed Americans moving silently in the brutal cold and rough terrain in some forgotten place, in a forgotten war, in Korea. Mr. Speaker, let us forget this unforgettable war no more.

And that is just the way it is.

CHAPLAIN CORPS' 240TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 240th birthday of the military Chaplain Corps.

During the early days of the Revolutionary War that led to our great Nation's independence, General George Washington called for the establishment of the Chaplain Corps to minister to the men who braved harsh conditions and incredible odds to fight for the freedom of their families and their Nation.

On July 29, 1775, the Continental Congress responded to that call. The initial Army Chaplain Corps would later expand to every branch of America's armed services.

The very existence of the Chaplain Corps and its persistence over the last 240 years says much about our Nation's view of the fighting force.

From the beginning, America has understood that our warfighters are not only soldiers, but whole human beings whose hearts and souls need just as much care as their bodies.

Chaplains have served in all of America's conflicts and major wars and engagements, from the colonial era to the battlefields in Afghanistan and Iraq. Hundreds of chaplains have laid down their lives for our Nation.

Chaplains are not simply people of faith who decide to minister in the military. Chaplains are professionals who have had extensive religious education as well as experience walking with people through the challenges of life.

Candidates for chaplain must receive an ecclesiastical endorsement from their faith group that testifies to his or her spiritual, moral, intellectual, and emotional preparedness to serve as a chaplain. They must possess a graduate degree in theological or religious studies.

Furthermore, each potential chaplain must demonstrate their commitment to a free exercise of religion by all military personnel while, at the same time, adhering to all military standards of conduct and physical training.

In a very real sense, chaplains serve on the front lines in the battle to ensure religious liberty in our pluralistic society.

Chaplains are there for those of faith and for those of no faith. Chaplains are there for the people who serve us.

In war and peace, chaplains provide our servicemembers and their families with prayer, counsel, guidance, sacraments, and sometimes just simply a shoulder to cry on.

The Chaplain Corps and its vital role in the United States Armed Forces is a matter near and dear to my heart for, since 2002, I have had the privilege of serving the United States Air Force Reserve as a military chaplain.

I volunteered to serve the men and women of the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a chaplain because I believe the calling of all is to serve how we can in the best way we can. The freedoms of our country have asked no less of us.

Chaplains have the honor of serving every member of the Armed Forces who might cross their path. We see the military from a very unique perspective.

We hear young enlisted soldiers and seasoned officers ask similar questions of faith and family. They speak of all-too-familiar family challenges and the struggles that they, too, go through.

As members of the military ourselves, chaplains certainly are not blind to rank. But given our focus on the unseen, our care for the soul, we do have a tendency to see more of what binds our fighting force together as fellow sojourners in this life than anything that might separate them.

You see, our challenges take us from the very war rooms and the very inner circles of commanders preparing for battle to the very newest who serve just on a guard.

As I did in Iraq back in 2008, it was my privilege to see some of our best and brightest serving at night in the middle of a land far away from home. One in particular sticks out.

When she came, I first met her. She was there, arriving late.

When she got there, I was sort of wondering: Why did you come late from your unit?

She said: Well, sir, I had a little bit of a delay.

And I said: Well, what was that?

I was just curious.

She said: Well, just a few months ago, I had my little baby girl.

And I thought for just a moment.

She said: But I was wanting to be here because I have trained and I didn't want to let my fellow members down.

So for the rest of that time, I was there with her. Over those next few months, we explored and I saw through pictures the life of a mother separated from her young child, but watching the experiences of growth as she not only served her country, but she served as a mom.

It has been a tremendous blessing to see and to honor the commitment of our fellow chaplains, chaplains who go when they are told to go. They commit themselves to serving when others are in need.

And those are the kinds of stories that the Chaplain Corps' birthday celebrates for me. It is seeing men and women who take their faith seriously, but also take the Constitution seriously when religious liberties are protected. Those are things worth standing up for. It is truly a blessing.

The men and women who have poured their lives into the servicemembers and their families over the last 240 years have made a profound impact on our military and our entire Nation.

It is with that thought in mind that I wish every member of the Chaplain Corps the very best on this special occasion.

Chaplains, wherever you are today, as one who serves with you, you serve a vital role. Keep it up. Keep protecting our Constitution, and keep taking care of the Nation, who sends their best young men and young women to protect us for the very privilege of sitting in this Chamber, speaking today, and being a part of it.

May the Chaplain Corps continue to provide a strong spiritual, moral, and ethical compass for the United States Army and Armed Forces for many centuries to come. And as one who serves, may I just say, bless them all in peace as they go about their work.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize leaders of Miami-Dade County Public Schools for attending a recent meeting at the White House to discuss school discipline.

The purpose of the discussion was to determine alternatives to common school disciplinary measures to keep students focused on learning.

Exclusionary discipline has become far too common, often exacerbating the problems for students who struggle in school. This leads kids down a path where they fall behind other students and sometimes end up in the juvenile justice system.

A change in school discipline procedures is long overdue. Rather than promoting an atmosphere of compounding punishments, we need to help our students get back on a positive track and help them succeed while also maintaining the safety of their classmates and teachers.

Prior to being elected to Congress, I served for 4 years as a board member of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. I have seen firsthand the bold efforts to reform disciplinary tactics and reverse the trend that plagues so many school districts.

For example, Miami-Dade has created sites across the county for suspended children to attend rather than forcing them to waste their time out of school.

I applaud the board, led by Chair Perla Tabares Hantman, and Superintendent Alberto Carvalho for their leadership on this issue and their willingness to participate in this important discussion.

I look forward to working with them to promote proper and safe school discipline that benefits the students, their parents, and their teachers.

STEM EDUCATION

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and also recognize the great work being done in the 26th District of Florida to encourage these classes.

□ 1215

It is no secret that jobs that require a STEM-related background are projected to outpace other fields as many companies struggle to hire qualified candidates. We need to encourage our students to pursue these fields early on in school and ensure that our educators have the necessary tools to help cultivate an interest in STEM classes for our students.

In an effort to reach the goal of graduating more STEM students, Miami-Dade County has launched an innovative new training and certification program for teachers in collaboration with Florida International University.

FIU has developed a program that promotes STEM teacher training for first-year college students, where they are paired with Miami-Dade County public school teachers to give them firsthand experience in the classroom. The goal is to encourage more STEM majors to go into teaching.

I applaud the work being done in Florida's 26th District and look forward to further promoting STEM education in south Florida's classroom.

Congratulations, again, to FIU and to Miami-Dade County public schools.

STARTUP DAY ACROSS AMERICA

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Wednesday, August 19, as Startup Day all across America, and I encourage everyone to visit at least one small business in your community on this day.

Startups are quickly developing right before our eyes. Throughout our country, there are countless small businesses that range from retail to health care, and these companies are changing the workforce as we know it. Entrepreneurs are leading the way to a brighter future by using innovative solutions and reinventing the way we look at small businesses.

Our local businesses employ our friends and neighbors, helping them to pay their bills and provide a better life for themselves and their families. As a member of the Small Business Committee, I recommend that we never forget the vital role that our local businesses play in keeping our neighborhoods strong and prosperous.

Again, I encourage everyone to participate in Startup Day across America on Wednesday, August 19, and help these small businesses continue to grow.

225TH BIRTHDAY OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate August 4 as the 225th birthday of the United States Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard is one of our Nation's five branches of the armed services and can trace its origins back to August 4, 1790, when the first U.S. Congress appropriated the funds to construct 10 vessels. These ships were designated with enforcing tariff and trade laws, while also preventing smuggling and protecting the collection of Federal revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly proud to represent Coast Guard Sector Key West, a base located in south Florida that covers 55,000 square miles. The coasties stationed at Sector Key West are tasked with the same responsibilities as their predecessors and also have the crucial job of combating drug smuggling from the Caribbean and South America. This is no easy task, but I am proud of the work the Coast Guard continues to do to stifle drugs from entering our communities.

Semper Paratus—Always Ready—this is the motto of our beloved Coast Guard, and our Nation owes a sincere debt of gratitude to the coasties and all those who protect our great country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

You speak as one who whispers to a beloved. You speak to the heart, but through the ages, people have not and do not listen. You give us Your Word as a gift, filled with promise; yet time and again, Your Word goes unheeded.

Encourage the Members of this House to listen carefully to Your Word and, rather than play with numbers or spin on language, face the truth straightforwardly, studying with honesty long and hard, and with humble attention remain completely open to Your impelling spirit.

And in the midst of complex and conflicting situations, may each Member, with confidence, be able to say to You: ''Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.''

May all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause one, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT DAVID WYATT

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant David Wyatt, who was taken much too soon from his family and friends on July 16. David, a marine and loving father, was born November 7, 1979, in Morganton, North Carolina.

David was a graduate of Russellville High School in Russellville, Arkansas, my alma mater. He was a veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan. For his service, Staff Sergeant Wyatt earned numerous medals and commendations for exemplary service in the infantry. He was a dedicated marine.

While performing his duties on July 16 as the battery operations chief, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Staff Sergeant Wyatt was gunned down during the tragic Chattanooga shooting that killed him, along with three other marines and a Navy sailor.

It is devastating that this decorated marine was taken in the homeland that he served so valiantly overseas to protect. His death shook the Arkansas River Valley in yet another senseless act of violence that can never be explained, justified, or tolerated.

The Russellville and Adkins communities and the entire Third District of

Arkansas mourn the loss of my fellow Russellville Cyclone and his fellow servicemen. My prayers are with his wife, Lorri; his two children, Rebecca and Heath; and his parents, Lew Wyatt of St. Augustine, Florida, and Deborah Boen of Atkins, Arkansas.

May God bless those he leaves behind, as they search for peace and understanding through this terrible tragedy.

LONG-TERM SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BILL

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have had more than 4½ years to craft a long-term surface transportation bill. Their dysfunction and inability to govern is starting to have a real impact on hard-working Americans and on our communities.

They continue to lurch from crisis to crisis; meanwhile, our Nation's crumbling roads and bridges—and our economy—suffer as a result. It is like deja vu all over again, another highway deadline this week.

Mr. Speaker, no more short-term month-to-month fixes. Enough is enough. In the last decade, Congress has passed 11 short-term funding bills to keep the highway trust fund solvent. If we are going to pass a long-term solution to rebuild our roads and bridges, it is going to take the courage of our convictions; it is going to take us working together across the aisle to get this done.

Our Nation's roads, bridges, and rails are in an urgent state of repair. One-third of America's roads are in poor or mediocre condition. One out of every four bridge is in need of significant repair.

The House Republican leadership needs to get serious and find a long-term fix to the highway trust fund. Our country relies on it.

FARM FAMILIES—LINKING THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the importance of farm families throughout the great State of Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota recently recognized the 2015 Minnesota Farm Families from across the State, and I am proud to represent five of these families who call the Sixth Congressional District home.

These farm families include the Bruce Bacon Garden Farm in Anoka County, the Scapanski Dairy in Benton County, the Buckentine Family Dairy in Carver County, the Reuter Family Farm in Washington County, and the Bernings' Green Waves Farm, Inc., in Wright County.

For many Minnesotans, farming isn't just a profession; it is a way of life. Family farms link the past to the future with each generation passing their work ethic, land, and traditions to the next. These farms make up the heartland of America and exemplify what makes Minnesota's agriculture industry great, which is why they should be celebrated.

Congratulations to the 2015 Minnesota Farm Families, and thank you so much for everything that you do.

REFORM OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I came to the floor and said it felt like open season on Black men in America. People around the country agree that the police killings undermine the efforts of good police and break the trust between police and their communities.

Black women and girls face the same threats and many more. Unsettling video of a police officer in Texas manhandling an unarmed 15-year-old girl in a bathing suit served as a wake-up call to all of us.

The arrest and death of Sandra Bland reminds us that the fight for equal justice under the law continues.

Black women also face a unique and, too often, unreported violence: sexual assault. In Oklahoma, an officer is on trial for sexually assaulting eight Black women. Tragically, this story is not unique. The challenges Black men face are real, but I was humbled to learn how unequal justice affects Black women.

Black women are the fastest growing prison population, and their stories must be told if we are going to break this trend.

Mr. Speaker, it is open season on all Americans.

FLOOD INSURANCE

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore a serious problem in Pasco County, Florida, this week that is devastating homeowners—flooding—after days of continuous rain.

After Tropical Storm Debby in 2012, the Army Corps of Engineers worked with county officials to implement some measures to mitigate flooding, but more needs to be done.

For instance, Pasco County officials have been working for 19 years to extend Ridge Road. One of the main justifications for the Ridge Road extension is a matter of safety. An extension is a much-needed evacuation route in the case of natural disasters, like flooding or hurricanes.

As of today, an evacuation issued for Elfers, Florida, in my district, is ongoing. The Ridge Road extension needs to be approved. Nineteen years is far too long. The Army Corps must stop dragging its feet.

The serious flood this week demonstrates the need for action. I hope that the Corps gets the message.

PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of our responsibility to preserve and strengthen the Medicare Program for future generations.

Last week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released its annual Medicare trustees report, an update on the long-term solvency and effectiveness of this vastly important health insurance program.

While the report projected that the trust fund that finances Medicare's hospital insurance coverage will remain solvent until 2030, it also cautioned that a high number of Medicare beneficiaries could see their Medicare part B premiums sharply increase in January of 2016.

As a former healthcare professional and nursing home administrator, I understand the importance of providing access to quality care at a realistic cost. One of the ways we can make Medicare services more affordable is by targeting waste and abuse within the program.

With this in mind, I have consistently worked with my colleagues to introduce and support legislation aimed at reducing fraud and increasing administrative effectiveness.

I look forward to continuing these efforts and urge my colleagues to join me in finding new ways to safeguard and sustain Medicare.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 24, 2015 at 10:19 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 23.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2499.

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 1626.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

SAWTOOTH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND JERRY PEAK WILDERNESS ADDITIONS ACT

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1138) to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1138

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land administered by the Forest Service; or

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term ''wilderness area'' means any of the areas designated as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System by section 101.

TITLE I—WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS

SEC. 101. ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM IN THE STATE OF IDAHO.

(a) HEMINGWAY-BOULDERS WILDERNESS.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain Federal lands in the Sawtooth and Challis National Forests in the State of Idaho, comprising approximately 67,998 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Hemingway/Boulders Wilderness Area-Proposed'' and dated February 25, 2015, are designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, which shall be known as the ''Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness''.

(b) WHITE CLOUDS WILDERNESS.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain Federal lands in the Sawtooth and Challis National Forests in the State of Idaho, comprising approximately 90,769 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''White Clouds Wilderness Area-Proposed'' and dated March 13, 2014, are designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, which shall be known as the ''White Clouds Wilderness''.

(c) JIM MCCLURE-JERRY PEAK WILDERNESS.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain Federal lands in the Challis National Forest and Challis District of the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Idaho, comprising approximately 116,898 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness'' and dated February 21, 2015, are designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, which shall be known as the ''Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness''.

(d) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a map and legal description for each wilderness area.

(2) EFFECT.—Each map and legal description submitted under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description submitted under paragraph (1) shall be available in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 102. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(1) any reference in that Act to the effective date shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) with respect to wilderness areas that are administered by the Secretary of the Interior, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) CONSISTENT INTERPRETATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall seek to ensure that the wilderness areas are interpreted for the public as an overall complex linked by—

(1) common location in the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains; and

(2) common identity with the natural and cultural history of the State of Idaho and the Native American and pioneer heritage of the State.

(c) COMPREHENSIVE WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall collaboratively develop wilderness management plans for the wilderness areas.

(d) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASE.—Within the wilderness areas, the Secretary may take such measures as the Secretary determines to be necessary for the control of fire, insects, and disease in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131(d)(1)).

(e) LIVESTOCK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the wilderness areas, the grazing of livestock in which grazing is established before the date of enactment of this Act shall be allowed to continue, subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary determines to be necessary, in accordance with—

(A) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131(d)(4));

(B) with respect to wilderness areas administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, the guidelines described in House Report 96–617 of the 96th Congress; and

(C) with respect to wilderness areas administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the guidelines described in appendix A of House Report 101–405 of the 101st Congress.

(2) DONATION OF GRAZING PERMITS AND LEASES.—

(A) ACCEPTANCE BY SECRETARY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept the donation of any valid existing leases or permits authorizing grazing on public land or National Forest System land, all or a portion of which are within the area depicted as the ''Boulder White Clouds Grazing Area'' on the map entitled ''Boulder White Clouds Grazing Area Map'' and dated January 27, 2010.

(ii) PARTIAL DONATION.—A person holding a valid grazing permit or lease for a grazing allotment partially within the area described in clause (i) may elect to donate only the portion of the grazing permit or lease that is within the area.

(B) TERMINATION.—With respect to each permit or lease donated under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

(i) terminate the grazing permit or lease or portion of the permit or lease; and

(ii) except as provided in subparagraph (C), ensure a permanent end to grazing on the land covered by the permit or lease or portion of the permit or lease.

(C) COMMON ALLOTMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the land covered by a permit or lease donated under subparagraph (A) is also covered by another valid grazing permit or lease that is not donated, the Secretary shall reduce the authorized level on the land covered by the permit or lease to reflect the donation of the permit or lease under subparagraph (A).

(ii) AUTHORIZED LEVEL.—To ensure that there is a permanent reduction in the level of grazing on the land covered by the permit or lease donated under subparagraph (A), the

Secretary shall not allow grazing use to exceed the authorized level established under clause (i).

(D) PARTIAL DONATION.—If a person holding a valid grazing permit or lease donates less than the full amount of grazing use authorized under the permit or lease, the Secretary shall—

(i) reduce the authorized grazing level to reflect the donation; and

(ii) modify the permit or lease to reflect the revised level or area of use.

(f) OUTFITTING AND GUIDE ACTIVITIES.—In accordance with section 4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)), commercial services (including authorized outfitting and guide activities) within the wilderness areas are authorized to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the wilderness areas.

(g) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction of the State of Idaho with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on public land in the State, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping within the wilderness areas.

(h) ACCESS.—In accordance with section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)), the Secretary shall provide the owner of State or private property within the boundary of a wilderness area adequate access to the property.

SEC. 103. WATER RIGHTS.

(a) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title—

(1) shall constitute either an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water rights with respect to the wilderness areas designated by section 101;

(2) affects any water rights—

(A) in the State of Idaho existing on the date of enactment of this Act, including any water rights held by the United States; or

(B) decreed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication, including any stipulation approved by the court in such adjudication between the United States and the State of Idaho with respect to such water rights; or

(3)(A) establishes a precedent with regard to any future wilderness designations; or

(B) limits, alters, modifies, or amends section 9 of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460aa–8).

(b) NEW PROJECTS.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, neither the President nor any other officer, employee, or agent of the United States shall fund, assist, authorize, or issue a license or permit for the development of any new water resource facility inside any of the wilderness areas designated by section 101.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''water resource facility'' means irrigation and pumping facilities, reservoirs, water conservation works, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, and transmission and other ancillary facilities, and other water diversion, storage, and carriage structures.

SEC. 104. MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS.

Nothing in this title restricts or precludes—

(1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over the wilderness areas, including military overflights that can be seen or heard within the wilderness areas;

(2) flight testing and evaluation; or

(3) the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace, or the establishment of military flight training routes, over the wilderness areas.

SEC. 105. ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around a wilderness area.

(b) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILDERNESS AREA.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside a wilderness area can be seen or heard within the wilderness area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 106. NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS USES.

Nothing in this title diminishes the treaty rights of any Indian tribe.

SEC. 107. ACQUISITION OF LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND.

(a) ACQUISITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire any land or interest in land within the boundaries of the wilderness areas by donation, exchange, or purchase from a willing seller.

(2) LAND EXCHANGE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall seek to complete an exchange for State land located within the boundaries of the wilderness areas designated by this title.

(b) INCORPORATION IN WILDERNESS AREA.—Any land or interest in land located inside the boundary of a wilderness area that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall be added to, and administered as part of the, wilderness area.

SEC. 108. WILDERNESS REVIEW.

(a) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—Section 5 of Public Law 92–400 (16 U.S.C. 460aa–4) is repealed.

(b) PUBLIC LAND.—

(1) FINDING.—Congress finds that, for purposes of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the following wilderness study areas have been adequately studied for wilderness designation:

(A) Jerry Peak Wilderness Study Area.

(B) Jerry Peak West Wilderness Study Area.

(C) Corral-Horse Basin Wilderness Study Area.

(D) Boulder Creek Wilderness Study Area.

(2) RELEASE.—Any public land within the areas described in paragraph (1) that is not designated as wilderness by this title—

(A) shall not be subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(B) shall be managed in accordance with land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712).

TITLE II—LAND CONVEYANCES FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act''.

SEC. 202. BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO.

The Secretary of Agriculture shall issue a special use permit or convey to Blaine County, Idaho, without consideration, not to exceed one acre of land for use as a school bus turnaround, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Blaine County Conveyance—Eagle Creek Parcel—Proposed'' and dated October 1, 2006.

SEC. 203. CUSTER COUNTY, IDAHO.

(a) PARK AND CAMPGROUND.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to Custer County, Idaho (in this section referred to as the ''County''), without consideration, approximately 114 acres of land depicted as ''Parcel A'' on the map entitled ''Custer County and City of Mackay Conveyances'' and dated April 6, 2010, for use as a public park and campground, consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(b) FIRE HALL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the County, without consideration, approximately 10 acres of land depicted as ''Parcel B'' on the map entitled ''Custer County and City of Mackay Conveyances'' and dated April 6, 2010, for use as a fire hall, consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(c) WASTE TRANSFER SITE.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the County, without consideration, approximately 80 acres of land depicted as ''Parcel C'' on the map entitled ''Custer County and City of Mackay Conveyances'' and dated April 6, 2010, to be used for a waste transfer site, consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(d) FOREST SERVICE ROAD.—

(1) CONVEYANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the County, without consideration, the Forest Service road that passes through the parcel of National Forest System land to be conveyed to the City of Stanley, Idaho, under section 206 from the junction of the road with Highway 75 to the junction with Valley Creek Road at the City of Stanley boundary.

(2) RELOCATION.—The conveyance under paragraph (1) is subject to the condition that the County agree to relocate the portion of the road that passes through the section 206 conveyance parcel to the southeast along the boundary of the conveyance parcel.

SEC. 204. CITY OF CHALLIS, IDAHO.

The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the City of Challis, Idaho, without consideration, approximately 460 acres of land within the area generally depicted as ''Parcel B'' on the map entitled ''Custer County and City of Challis Conveyances'' and dated February 2, 2010, to be used for public purposes consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

SEC. 205. CITY OF CLAYTON, IDAHO.

(a) CEMETERY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the City of Clayton, Idaho (in this section referred to as the ''City''), without consideration, approximately 23 acres of land depicted as ''Parcel A'' on the map entitled ''City of Clayton Conveyances'' and dated April 6, 2010, for use as a public cemetery.

(b) PARK.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the City, without consideration, approximately two acres of land depicted as ''Parcel B'' on the map entitled ''City of Clayton Conveyances'' and dated April 6, 2010, for use as a public park or other public purpose consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(c) WATER TOWER.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the City, without consideration, approximately two acres of land depicted as ''Parcel C'' on the map entitled ''City of Clayton Conveyances'' and dated April 6, 2010, for location of a water tower, consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(d) WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the City, without consideration, approximately six acres of land depicted as ''Parcel D'' on the map entitled ''City of Clayton Conveyances'' and dated April 6, 2010 (including any necessary access right-of-way across the river), for use as a wastewater treatment facility, consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(e) FIRE HALL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the City, without consideration, approximately two acres of land depicted as ''Parcel E'' on the map entitled ''City of Clayton Conveyances'' and dated April 6, 2010, for use as a fire hall and related purposes, consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

SEC. 206. CITY OF STANLEY, IDAHO.

(a) WORKFORCE HOUSING.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the City of Stanley, Idaho (in this section referred to as the ''City''), without consideration, a parcel of National Forest System land within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, but outside the area managed by the Sawtooth Interpretative and Historical Association under special use permit with the Secretary, that consists of approximately four acres as indicated on the map entitled ''Custer County and City of Stanley Conveyance Parcel-Proposed'' and dated February 24, 2015, for the purpose of permitting the City to develop the parcel to provide workforce housing for persons employed in the City or its environs.

(b) NUMBER AND CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING.—The City will construct up to 20 apartment units on the parcel conveyed under subsection (a). The actual design and configuration of the apartment units will be determined by the City in consultation with the Secretary and other interested parties, except that units may not exceed two stories and must be located near or against the hillside to blend in with the terrain.

(c) RECREATION AREA PRIVATE LAND USE REGULATIONS.—The private land use regulations of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area shall not apply to the parcel conveyed under subsection (a), including with regard to the number and type of apartments units to be constructed on the parcel.

(d) REMOVAL OF EXISTING STRUCTURE.—The Secretary shall be responsible for the removal of the barn located, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, on the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a). The Secretary may remove the barn either before the conveyance of the parcel or at such later date as the City may request.

(e) RELATION TO REQUIRED REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—Consistent with the reversionary interest required by section 207(b), the City may contract for the development and management of the apartment units constructed on the parcel conveyed under subsection (a) so long as the City retains ownership of the parcel in perpetuity.

SEC. 207. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PERMITS OR LAND CONVEYANCES.

(a) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The issuance of a special use permit or the conveyance of land under this title shall be subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(b) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If any parcel of land conveyed under this title ceases to be used for the public purpose for which the parcel was conveyed, the parcel shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, based on a determination that reversion is in the best interests of the United States, revert to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1138, introduced by my good friend, Congressman MICHAEL SIMPSON of Idaho, would establish new recreation and wilderness areas and release 154,000 acres of wilderness study areas back to multiple use in central Idaho.

This area, which is predominantly Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land, is home to world-class scenery and attracts thousands of outdoor recreationists, including snowmobilers, hunters, backpackers, hikers, mountain bikers, outfitters, and campers. The bill also conveys several Federal parcels to local counties and cities to be used for a variety of municipal purposes.

Congressman SIMPSON has worked tirelessly on this issue for the last decade. I encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 1138.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2015.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On April 30, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported without amendment H.R. 774, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015, by unanimous consent. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. I understand that our staffs have worked out some additional language that affects provisions in your jurisdiction for the Floor, and I pledge to incorporate this language when we get to that point in the process. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support having the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and for your continued strong cooperation between our committees.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2015.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 774, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015, as ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on April 30, 2015. I appreciate your inclusion of changes requested by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as this bill moves forward.

I agree to allow the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be discharged from consideration of H.R. 774 with the understanding that this discharge does not affect the Committee's jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and does not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, I expect the negotiated text to be the text considered on the floor. Finally, as stated in your letter, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I fully expect the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be represented on the conference committee.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and for agreeing to include a copy of this letter in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1138. This bill adds over 275,000 acres of wilderness to the Sawtooth National Recreational Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness in Idaho's Boulder-White Cloud Mountains.

The Boulder-White Clouds region in central Idaho is the largest contiguous roadless area in the 48 States, and it deserves the permanent protection provided by this bill. The region contains over 150 mountains that are over 10,000 feet and provides critical habitat for numerous fish and wildlife species. It is also a popular recreation destination that attracts people who hunt, fish, ski, and hike along the pristine shores of the alpine lakes and the ridges of the rugged mountains.

This bill will leave a lasting legacy of conservation, and I applaud my colleague from Idaho for all of his work and determination. Mr. Speaker, I also thank the committee for their work on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) the author of the bill.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Leader MCCARTHY and Chairman BISHOP for bringing H.R. 1138 to the floor today, which we refer to as SNRA+. I also want to thank Ranking Member GRIJALVA of the full committee, Chairman MCCLINTOCK of the subcommittee, and Ranking Member TSONGAS of the subcommittee.

In 2005, we had the first congressional hearing on the Boulder-White Clouds on what then was a bill called CIEDRA. CIEDRA was a complicated 60-page bill that tried to do a lot of things for a lot of different people.

Today, we have a simplified 20-page bill we call SNRA+ that brings management certainty—and that is an important aspect—to the Boulder-White Clouds. It does this by making the determination about which parts of the current wilderness study area will in fact become wilderness and which parts will be released for multiple use.

There will be three new wilderness areas totaling 275,665 acres: Hemmingway-Boulders Wilderness, with 67,998 acres; White Clouds Wilderness, with 90,769 acres; and in honor of the late Senator Jim McClure, we have the James A. McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness, with 116,898 acres. The bill also releases wilderness study areas back to multiple use, totaling 153,883 acres.

So this not only makes the determination of what is going to be wilderness, it releases the other wilderness study areas for multiple use.

It is important to note in this bill that we do not close any motorized roads or trails in this bill. Ranchers with allotments on the SNRA would be allowed to voluntarily retire their grazing permits and be eligible for compensation from a third party. Any retired grazing permits would be permanently closed.

There is a provision that nothing in the bill affects the jurisdiction of the State of Idaho with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on public land in the State, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping within the wilderness areas.

Individual parcels of land will be conveyed to Custer and Blaine Counties and rural communities for public purposes, including workforce housing, cemeteries, water towers, and waste transfer sites.

As part of this process, grants have been provided to the SNRA for trail maintenance and improvements, including maintenance and improvements of existing motorized trails and two existing trials to provide primitive wheelchair access and for acquiring the land to build a mechanized bike/snowmobile access trail between Redfish Lake and Stanley.

Mr. Speaker, this bill meets the needs of today's users and resolves longstanding debates over the management of the Boulder-White Clouds. It will end the discussion of monuments and wilderness in the Boulder-White Clouds, and secures the future for generations of Idahoans who want to continue using and enjoying our beautiful Boulder-White Clouds.

Finally, I am proud of the wide array of support we now have for this bill. We have the support of the Idaho Recreation Council, whose members include ATVers, motorcyclists, motorized and nonmotorized boaters, rafters, backcountry pilots, RVers, rock hounds, recreational miners, and snowmobilers in the Idaho State Snowmobile Association.

We also have the support of the Sawtooth Society, the Custer County Commissioners, East Fork Ranchers, the Idaho Farm Bureau, the Idaho Cattle Association, Idaho Outfitters and Guides, the Idaho Conservation League, and the Idaho Wilderness Society.

This is a broad array of users and conservation groups, and it demonstrates how far we have come with this bill and how widely it is supported.

This is an Idaho bill—crafted by Idahoans over the past 15 years—to address some of the most contentious land management issues in one of the most beautiful places on Earth so that we can both use and enjoy it and preserve it for future generations. It is, by any definition, a ''compromise'' by all stakeholders, and I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have a list of people I want to thank who helped support this bill over the years and have worked very diligently on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the following people who have worked with me during most or part of the last 15 years. They each played a role in their own way.

From the Conservation Community I want to thank Rick Johnson, who has become a true friend and honest broker in this long journey. I also want to thank Tim Mahoney, Marcia Argust, Craig Gehrke, Brad Brooks, Mike Matz, John Gilroy, Linn Kincannon, Lynne Stone, Tom Pomeroy, Bart Koehler, Kai Anderson, Athan Manuel, Chris Wood, Erik Schultz, Dani Mazzotta, and Myke Bybee.

I want to thank the Custer County Commissioners Wayne Butts, Lin Hintze, Doyle Lamb and Cliff Hansen. They stood by us throughout and made sure their concerns were heard and taken care of.

I want to thank current and former Blaine County Commissioners including Sarah Michael and also Larry Schoen who signed a joint letter with Commissioner Butts of Custer County.

Additionally, I need to thank Stanley City Council President Steve Botti and Mayor Herb Mumford and former mayor Hannah Stauts.

I want to thank the East Fork Ranchers Wayne and Melody Baker, Gary and Jackie Ingram, Doug, Cheryl and Sarah Baker and Junior and Lura Baker. They stood by me through thick and thin. They were the reason we started this process, and we are going to make sure their livelihoods on the East Fork continue for future generations.

At the Sawtooth Society, I need to thank former executive director Bob Hayes, current executive director Gary O'Malley, Hans Carstensen and the current President Paul Hill.

From the Idaho Recreation Council who represent motorized users I want to thank Brett Madron, Steve Frisbie and Gary Cvecich. I want to also thank their leader Sandra Mitchell. She is an incredible woman who represents her members very, very well.

I want to thank Grant Simonds and Louise and Mike Stark who represent the outfitters and guides.

At the Forest Service, I need to thank Ed Cannady for answering the hundreds of questions we asked over the years on uses and map boundaries. He knows the area better than anyone and he cares even more about them. He also took me, my staff and even the Forest Service Chief into the White Clouds on various trips so I could get a better understanding of the area. Ed has become a very good friend throughout this process.

Additionally, at the Forest Service I want to thank Kit Mullen, Ruth Monahan, David Stockdale, Brenda Geesey, Bonnie Luckman, Barbara Garcia, Julie Thomas, Jennifer Blake, and Beckie Wagoner.

At the BLM, Laurie Sedlmayr and Lara Douglas were a great help throughout this process.

I want to thank Erica Rhoad who started working on this bill with Chairman Pombo and is finishing it with Chairman BISHOP. She is very good at her job.

I want to thank Gregory Kostka at Legislative Counsel. He drafted and redrafted countless versions of this bill over the years. He is a true professional.

I want to thank Laurel Sayer who was on my staff and is now working in the conservation community. She attended many meetings and did terrific ground work for me throughout the process.

I want to thank Senator RISCH who when I spoke to him last year about one last try before a monument proclamation he said "I think we can do this, MIKE." The Senator and his staff John Sandy and Darren Parker have done a great job helping us get to the finish line.

Finally, I want to thank my staff, Lindsay Slater, Malisah Small, Nathan Greene, Sarah Cannon, James Neill, Emilee Henshaw, Solara Linehan, Billy Valderrama, John Revier and Nikki Wallace. They have each helped in many different ways.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. SIMPSON, for sponsoring this very important piece of legislation.

I ask my colleagues to help support H.R. 1138, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1138.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 774) to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 774

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—STRENGTHENING FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

SEC. 101. AMENDMENTS TO THE HIGH SEAS DRIFTNET FISHING MORATORIUM PROTECTION ACT.

(a) ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 606 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g) is amended by inserting before the first sentence the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall enforce this Act, and the Acts to which this section applies, in accordance with this section. Each such Secretary may, by agreement, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, utilize the personnel services, equipment (including aircraft and vessels), and facilities of any other Federal agency, and of any State agency, in the performance of such duties.

''(b) ACTS TO WHICH SECTION APPLIES.—This section applies to—

''(1) the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3631 et seq.);

''(2) the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act (16 U.S.C. 1385);

''(3) the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. 951 et seq.);

''(4) the North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 5001 et seq.);

''(5) the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971 et seq.);

''(6) the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.);

''(7) the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.); and

''(8) the Antigua Convention Implementing Act of 2015.

''(c) ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prevent any person from violating this Act, or any Act to which this section applies, in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though sections 308 through 311 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1858 through 1861) were incorporated into and made a part of and applicable to this Act and each such Act.

''(2) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—The Secretary may, subject to appropriations and in the course of carrying out the Secretary's responsibilities under the Acts to which this section applies, engage in international cooperation to help other nations combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and achieve sustainable fisheries.

''(d) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(1) ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—In addition to the powers of officers authorized pursuant to subsection (c), any officer who is authorized by the Secretary, or the head of any Federal or State agency that has entered into an agreement with the Secretary under subsection (a), may enforce the provisions of any Act to which this section applies, with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though section 311 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861) were incorporated into and made a part of each such Act.

''(2) DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the data confidentiality provisions in section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1881a), may disclose, as necessary and appropriate, information, including information collected under joint authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 71 et seq.) or the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) or other statutes implementing international fishery agreements, to any other Federal or State government agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the secretariat or equivalent of an international fishery management organization or arrangement made pursuant to an international fishery agreement, or a foreign government, if—

''(i) such government, organization, or arrangement has policies and procedures to protect such information from unintended or unauthorized disclosure; and

''(ii) such disclosure is necessary—

''(I) to ensure compliance with any law or regulation enforced or administered by the Secretary;

''(II) to administer or enforce any international fishery agreement to which the United States is a party;

''(III) to administer or enforce a binding conservation measure adopted by any international organization or arrangement to which the United States is a party;

''(IV) to assist in any investigative, judicial, or administrative enforcement proceeding in the United States; or

''(V) to assist in any law enforcement action undertaken by a law enforcement agency of a foreign government, or in relation to a legal proceeding undertaken by a foreign government to the extent the enforcement action is consistent with rules and regulations of a regional fisheries management organization (as that term is defined by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing) of which the United States is a member, or the Secretary has determined that the enforcement action is consistent with the requirements under Federal law for enforcement actions with respect to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

''(B) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS NOT APPLICABLE.—The data confidentiality provisions of section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1881a) shall not apply with respect to this Act with respect to—

''(i) any obligation of the United States to share information under a regional fisheries management organization (as that term is defined by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing) of which the United States is a member; or

''(ii) any information collected by the Secretary regarding foreign vessels.

''(e) PROHIBITED ACTS.—It is unlawful for any person—

''(1) to violate any provision of this Act or any regulation or permit issued pursuant to this Act;

''(2) to refuse to permit any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Act to board, search, or inspect a vessel, subject to such person's control for the purposes of conducting any search, investigation, or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this Act, any regulation promulgated under this Act, or any Act to which this section applies;

''(3) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any such authorized officer in the conduct of any search, investigation, or inspection described in paragraph (2);

''(4) to resist a lawful arrest for any act prohibited by this section or any Act to which this section applies;

''(5) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension, arrest, or detection of an other person, knowing that such person has committed any act prohibited by this section or any Act to which this section applies; or

''(6) to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, sexually harass, bribe, or interfere with—

''(A) any observer on a vessel under this Act or any Act to which this section applies; or

''(B) any data collector employed by the National Marine Fisheries Service or under contract to any person to carry out responsibilities under this Act or any Act to which this section applies.

''(f) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person who commits any act that is unlawful under subsection (e) shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty, and may be subject to a permit sanction, under section 308 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1858).

''(g) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Any person who commits an act that is unlawful under subsection (e)(2), (e)(3), (e)(4), (e)(5), or (e)(6) is deemed to be guilty of an offense punishable under section 309(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1859(b)).

''(h) UTILIZATION OF FEDERAL AGENCY ASSETS.—''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 308(a) of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 2437(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Any person who commits an act that is unlawful under section 306 shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty, and may be subject to a permit sanction, under section 308 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1858).''.

(b) ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 608 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826i) is amended by—

(1) inserting before the first sentence the following: ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'';

(2) in subsection (a) (as designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection) in the first sentence, inserting '', or arrangements made pursuant to an international fishery agreement,'' after ''organizations''; and

(3) adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(b) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the data confidentiality provisions in section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1881a) except as provided in paragraph (2), may disclose, as necessary and appropriate, information, including information collected under joint authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 71 et seq.), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), any other statute implementing an international fishery agreement, to any other Federal or State government agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, or the secretariat or equivalent of an international fishery management organization or arrangement made pursuant to an international fishery agreement, if such government, organization, or arrangement, respectively, has policies and procedures to protect such information from unintended or unauthorized disclosure.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The data confidentiality provisions in section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1881a) shall not apply with respect to this Act—

''(A) for obligations of the United States to share information under a regional fisheries management organization (as that term is defined by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing) of which the United States is a member; or

''(B) to any information collected by the Secretary regarding foreign vessels.

''(c) IUU VESSEL LISTS.—The Secretary may—

''(1) develop, maintain, and make public a list of vessels and vessel owners engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing or fishing-related activities in support of illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing, including vessels or vessel owners identified by an international fishery management organization or arrangement made pursuant to an international fishery agreement, that—

''(A) the United States is party to; or

''(B) the United States is not party to, but whose procedures and criteria in developing and maintaining a list of such vessels and vessel owners are substantially similar to such procedures and criteria adopted pursuant to an international fishery agreement to which the United States is a party; and

''(2) take appropriate action against listed vessels and vessel owners, including action against fish, fish parts, or fish products from such vessels, in accordance with applicable United States law and consistent with applicable international law, including principles, rights, and obligations established in applicable international fishery management agreements and trade agreements.

''(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate regulations to implement this section.''.

(c) NOTIFICATION REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF NATIONS.—Section 609(b) of such Act (166 U.S.C. 1826j(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the President and that nation of such an identification.''.

(d) NATIONS IDENTIFIED UNDER SECTION 610.—Section 610(b)(1) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826k(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) notify, as soon as possible, the President and nations that have been identified under subsection (a), and also notify other nations whose vessels engage in fishing activities or practices described in subsection (a), about the provisions of this section and this Act;''.

(e) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 609.—Section 609(d)(3)(A)(i) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(d)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by striking ''that has not been certified by the Secretary under this subsection, or''.

(f) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 610.—Section 610(c)(5) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826k(c)(5)) is amended by striking ''that has not been certified by the Secretary under this subsection, or''.

(g) IDENTIFICATION OF NATIONS.—

(1) SCOPE OF IDENTIFICATION FOR ACTIONS OF FISHING VESSELS.—Section 609(a) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(a)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting '', based on a cumulative compilation and analysis of data collected and provided by international fishery management organizations and other nations and organizations,'' after ''shall''; and

(ii) by striking ''2 years'' and inserting ''3 years'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''that undermines the effectiveness of measures required by an international fishery management organization, taking into account whether'' after ''(1)''; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by striking ''vessels of''.

(2) ADDITIONAL GROUNDS FOR IDENTIFICATION.—Section 609(a) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(a)) is further amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) in order as subparagraphs (A) and (B) (and by moving the margins of such subparagraphs 2 ems to the right);

(B) by inserting before the first sentence the following:

''(1) IDENTIFICATION FOR ACTIONS OF FISHING VESSELS.—''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) IDENTIFICATION FOR ACTIONS OF NATION.—Taking into account the factors described under section 609(a)(1), the Secretary shall also identify, and list in such report, a nation—

''(A) if it is violating, or has violated at any point during the preceding three years, conservation and management measures required under an international fishery management agreement to which the United States is a party and the violations undermine the effectiveness of such measures; or

''(B) if it is failing, or has failed in the preceding 3-year period, to effectively address or regulate illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing in areas described under paragraph (1)(B).

''(3) APPLICATION TO OTHER ENTITIES.—Where the provisions of this Act are applicable to nations, they shall also be applicable, as appropriate, to other entities that have competency to enter into international fishery management agreements.''.

(3) PERIOD OF FISHING PRACTICES SUPPORTING IDENTIFICATION.—Section 610(a)(1) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826k(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''calendar year'' and inserting ''3 years''.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce $450,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 to implement the amendments made by subsections (b) and (g).

(i) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) Section 607(2) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826h(2)) is amended by striking ''whose vessels'' and inserting ''that''.

(2) Section 609(d)(1) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''of its fishing vessels''.

(3) Section 609(d)(1)(A) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(d)(1)(A)) is amended by striking ''of its fishing vessels''.

(4) Section 609(d)(2) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(d)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''for certification'' and inserting ''to authorize'';

(B) by inserting ''the importation'' after ''or other basis'';

(C) by striking ''harvesting''; and

(D) by striking ''not certified under paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''issued a negative certification under paragraph (1)''.

(5) Section 610 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826k) is amended as follows:

(A) In subsection (a)(1), by striking ''practices;'' and inserting ''practices—''.

(B) In subsection (c)(4), by striking all preceding subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(4) ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE.—The Secretary may establish a procedure to authorize, on a shipment-by-shipment, shipper-by-shipper, or other basis the importation of fish or fish products from a vessel of a nation issued a negative certification under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that such imports were harvested by practices that do not result in bycatch of a protected marine species, or were harvested by practices that—

''(A) are comparable to those of the United States, taking into account different conditions; and''.

SEC. 102. AMENDMENTS TO THE HIGH SEAS DRIFTNET FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT ACT.

(a) NEGATIVE CERTIFICATION EFFECTS.—Section 101 of the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act (16 U.S.C. 1826a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''recognized principles of'' after ''in accordance with'';

(2) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by inserting ''or, as appropriate, for fishing vessels of a nation that receives a negative certification under section 609(d) or section 610(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826)'' after ''(1)'';

(3) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by inserting before the period the following: '', except for the purposes of inspecting such vessel, conducting an investigation, or taking other appropriate enforcement action'';

(4) in subsection (b)(1)(A)(i), by striking ''or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing'' after ''driftnet fishing'';

(5) in subsection (b)(1)(B) and subsection (b)(2), by striking ''or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing'' after ''driftnet fishing'' each place it appears;

(6) in subsection (b)(3)(A)(i), by inserting ''or a negative certification under section 609(d) or section 610(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(d), 1826k(c))'' after ''(1)(A)'';

(7) in subsection (b)(4)(A), by inserting ''or issues a negative certification under section 609(d) or section 610(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(d), 1826k(c))'' after ''paragraph (1)'';

(8) in subsection (b)(4)(A)(i), by striking ''or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing'' after ''driftnet fishing''; and

(9) in subsection (b)(4)(A)(i), by inserting '', or to address the offending activities for which a nation received a negative certification under section 609(d) or 610(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(d), 1826k(c))'' after ''beyond the exclusive economic zone of any nation''.

(b) DURATION OF NEGATIVE CERTIFICATION EFFECTS.—Section 102 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1826b) is amended by—

(1) striking ''or illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing''; and

(2) inserting ''or effectively addressed the offending activities for which the nation received a negative certification under 609(d) or 610(c) of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826j(d), 1826k(c))'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 103. AMENDMENTS TO NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS STOCKS ACT OF 1992.

(a) UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES.—Section 810 of the North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 5009) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by inserting '', investigation,'' after ''search''; and

(2) in paragraph (6), by inserting '', investigation,'' after ''search''.

(b) ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.—Section 811 of the Northern Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 5010) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 811. ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.

''For additional prohibitions relating to this Act and enforcement of this Act, see section 606 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g).''.

SEC. 104. AMENDMENTS TO THE PACIFIC SALMON TREATY ACT OF 1985.

Section 8 of the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3637) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by inserting '', investigation,'' after ''search''; and

(B) by striking ''this title;'' and inserting ''this Act;'';

(2) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) by inserting '', investigation,'' after ''search''; and

(B) by striking ''subparagraph (2);'' and inserting ''paragraph (2);'';

(3) in subsection (a)(5), by striking ''this title; or'' and inserting ''this Act;''; and

(4) by striking subsections (b) through (f) and inserting the following:

''(b) ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.—For additional prohibitions relating to this Act and enforcement of this Act, see section 606 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g).''.

SEC. 105. AMENDMENTS TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION ACT.

The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (title V of Public Law 109–479) is amended—

(1) by amending section 506(c) (16 U.S.C. 6905(c)) to read as follows:

''(c) ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.—For additional prohibitions relating to this Act and enforcement of this Act, see section 606 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g).''; and

(2) in section 507(a)(2) (16 U.S.C. 6906(a)(2)) by striking ''suspension, on'' and inserting ''suspension, of''.

SEC. 106. AMENDMENTS TO THE ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES CONVENTION ACT.

The Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act of 1984 is amended—

(1) in section 306 (16 U.S.C. 2435)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''which he knows, or reasonably should have known, was'';

(B) in paragraph (4), by inserting '', investigation,'' after ''search''; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by inserting '', investigation,'' after ''search''; and

(2) in section 307 (16 U.S.C. 2436)—

(A) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before the first sentence; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION MEASURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of Commerce may publish in the Federal Register a final regulation to implement any conservation measure for which the Secretary of State notifies the Commission under section 305(a)(1)—

''(A) that has been in effect for 12 months or less;

''(B) that is adopted by the Commission; and

''(C) with respect to which the Secretary of State does not notify Commission in accordance with section 305(a)(1) within the time period allotted for objections under Article IX of the Convention.

''(2) ENTERING INTO FORCE.—Upon publication of such regulation in the Federal Register, such conservation measure shall enter into force with respect to the United States.''.

SEC. 107. AMENDMENTS TO THE ATLANTIC TUNAS CONVENTION ACT.

The Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 is amended—

(1) in section 6(c)(2) (16 U.S.C. 971d(c)(2)(2))—

(A) by striking ''(A)'' and inserting ''(i)'';

(B) by striking ''(B)'' and inserting ''(ii)'';

(C) by inserting ''(A)'' after ''(2)''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) Notwithstanding the requirements of subparagraph (A) and subsections (b) and (c) of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary may issue final regulations to implement Commission recommendations referred to in paragraph (1) concerning trade restrictive measures against nations or fishing entities.'';

(2) in section 7 (16 U.S.C. 971e) by striking subsections (e) and (f) and redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (e);

(3) in section 8 (16 U.S.C. 971f)—

(A) by striking subsections (a) and (c); and

(B) by inserting before subsection (b) the following:

''(a) For additional prohibitions relating to this Act and enforcement of this Act, see section 606 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g).'';

(4) in section 8(b) by striking ''the enforcement activities specified in section 8(a) of this Act'' each place it appears and inserting ''enforcement activities with respect to this Act that are otherwise authorized by law''; and

(5) by striking section 11 (16 U.S.C. 971j) and redesignating sections 12 and 13 as sections 11 and 12, respectively.

SEC. 108. AMENDMENTS TO THE HIGH SEAS FISHING COMPLIANCE ACT OF 1965.

Section 104(f) of the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5503(f)) is amended to read as follows:

''(f) VALIDITY.—A permit issued under this section for a vessel is void if—

''(1) any other permit or authorization required for the vessel to fish is expired, revoked, or suspended; or

''(2) the vessel is no longer documented under the laws of the United States or eligible for such documentation.''.

SEC. 109. AMENDMENTS TO THE DOLPHIN PROTECTION CONSUMER INFORMATION ACT.

The Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act (16 U.S.C. 1385) is amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

''(e) ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.—For additional prohibitions relating to this Act and enforcement of this Act, see section 606 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g).''.

SEC. 110. AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTHERN PACIFIC HALIBUT ACT OF 1982.

Section 7 of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 773e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F);

(2) by redesignating subsections (a) and (b) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(3) in paragraph (1)(B), as so redesignated, by inserting '', investigation,'' before ''or inspection'';

(4) in paragraph (1)(C), as so redesignated, by inserting '', investigation,'' before ''or inspection'';

(5) in paragraph (1)(E), as so redesignated, by striking ''or'' after the semicolon; and

(6) in paragraph (1)(F), as so redesignated, by striking ''section.'' and inserting ''section; or''.

SEC. 111. AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION ACT OF 1995.

Section 207 of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5606) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**AND PENALTIES**'' and inserting ''**AND ENFORCEMENT**'';

(2) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting '', investigation,'' before ''or inspection'';

(3) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting '', investigation,'' before ''or inspection''; and

(4) by striking subsections (b) through (f) and inserting the following:

''(b) ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.—For additional prohibitions relating to this Act and enforcement of this Act, see section 606 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g).''.

SEC. 112. AMENDMENT TO THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT.

Section 307(1)(Q) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1857(1)(Q)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''or any treaty or in contravention of any binding conservation measure adopted by an international agreement or organization to which the United States is a party''.

TITLE II—IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANTIGUA CONVENTION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Antigua Convention Implementing Act of 2015''.

SEC. 202. AMENDMENT OF THE TUNA CONVENTIONS ACT OF 1950.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. 951 et seq.).

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 (16 U.S.C. 951) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

''In this Act:

''(1) ANTIGUA CONVENTION.—The term 'Antigua Convention' means the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention Between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica, signed at Washington, November 14, 2003.

''(2) COMMISSION.—The term 'Commission' means the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission provided for by the Convention.

''(3) CONVENTION.—The term 'Convention' means—

''(A) the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, signed at Washington, May 31, 1949, by the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica;

''(B) the Antigua Convention, upon its entry into force for the United States, and any amendments thereto that are in force for the United States; or

''(C) both such Conventions, as the context requires.

''(4) PERSON.—The term 'person' means an individual, partnership, corporation, or association subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(5) UNITED STATES.—The term 'United States' includes all areas under the sovereignty of the United States.

''(6) UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.—The term 'United States commissioners' means the individuals appointed in accordance with section 3(a).''.

SEC. 204. COMMISSIONERS; NUMBER, APPOINTMENT, AND QUALIFICATIONS.

Section 3 (16 U.S.C. 952) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 3. COMMISSIONERS.

''(a) COMMISSIONERS.—The United States shall be represented on the Commission by 4 United States Commissioners. The President shall appoint individuals to serve on the Commission. The United States Commissioners shall be subject to supervision and removal by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary. In making the appointments, the President shall select United States Commissioners from among individuals who are knowledgeable or experienced concerning highly migratory fish stocks in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, one of whom shall be an officer or employee of the Department of Commerce. Not more than 2 United States Commissioners may be appointed who reside in a State other than a State whose vessels maintain a substantial fishery in the area of the Convention.

''(b) ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, may designate from time to time and for periods of time deemed appropriate Alternate United States Commissioners to the Commission. Any Alternate United States Commissioner may exercise, at any meeting of the Commission or of the General Advisory Committee or Scientific Advisory Subcommittee established pursuant to section 4(b), all powers and duties of a United States Commissioner in the absence of any United States Commissioner appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for whatever reason. The number of such Alternate United States Commissioners that may be designated for any such meeting shall be limited to the number of United States Commissioners appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section who will not be present at such meeting.

''(c) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

''(1) EMPLOYMENT STATUS.—Individuals serving as United States Commissioners, other than officers or employees of the United States Government, shall not be considered Federal employees except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

''(2) COMPENSATION.—The United States Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners, although officers of the United States while so serving, shall receive no compensation for their services as United States Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners.

''(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

''(A) The Secretary of State shall pay the necessary travel expenses of United States Commissioners and Alternate United States Commissioners to meetings of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and other meetings the Secretary of State deems necessary to fulfill their duties, in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5, United States Code.

''(B) The Secretary may reimburse the Secretary of State for amounts expended by the Secretary of State under this subsection.''.

SEC. 205. GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE.

Section 4 (16 U.S.C. 953) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) APPOINTMENTS; PUBLIC PARTICIPATION; COMPENSATION.—

''(A) The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall appoint a General Advisory Committee which shall consist of not more than 25 individuals who shall be representative of the various groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the Convention, including nongovernmental conservation organizations, providing to the maximum extent practicable an equitable balance among such groups. Members of the General Advisory Committee will be eligible to participate as members of the United States delegation to the Commission and its working groups to the extent the Commission rules and space for delegations allow.

''(B) The chair of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Subpanel for Highly Migratory Fisheries and the chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Committee shall be ex-officio members of the General Advisory Committee by virtue of their positions in those Councils.

''(C) Each member of the General Advisory Committee appointed under subparagraph (A) shall serve for a term of 3 years and is eligible for reappointment.

''(D) The General Advisory Committee shall be invited to attend all non-executive meetings of the United States delegation and at such meetings shall be given opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commission.

''(E) The General Advisory Committee shall determine its organization, and prescribe its practices and procedures for carrying out its functions under this title, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and the Convention. The General Advisory Committee shall publish and make available to the public a statement of its organization, practices and procedures. Meetings of the General Advisory Committee, except when in executive session, shall be open to the public, and prior notice of meetings shall be made public in timely fashion. The General Advisory Committee shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

''(2) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary and the Secretary of State shall furnish the General Advisory Committee with relevant information concerning fisheries and international fishery agreements.

''(3) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

''(A) The Secretary shall provide to the General Advisory Committee in a timely manner such administrative and technical support services as are necessary for its effective functioning.

''(B) Individuals appointed to serve as a member of the General Advisory Committee—

''(i) shall serve without pay, but while away from their homes or regular places of business to attend meetings of the General Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code; and

''(ii) shall not be considered Federal employees except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.'';

(2) by striking so much of subsection (b) as precedes paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(b) SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE.—(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall appoint a Scientific Advisory Subcommittee of not less than 5 nor more than 15 qualified scientists with balanced representation from the public and private sectors, including nongovernmental conservation organizations.''; and

(3) in subsection (b)(3), by striking ''General Advisory Subcommittee'' and inserting ''General Advisory Committee''.

SEC. 206. RULEMAKING.

Section 6 (16 U.S.C. 955) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 6. RULEMAKING.

''(a) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and, with respect to enforcement measures, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States international obligations under the Convention and this Act, including recommendations and decisions adopted by the Commission. In cases where the Secretary has discretion in the implementation of one or more measures

adopted by the Commission that would govern fisheries under the authority of a Regional Fishery Management Council, the Secretary may, to the extent practicable within the implementation schedule of the Convention and any recommendations and decisions adopted by the Commission, promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States international obligations under the Convention and this Act, in accordance with the procedures established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

''(b) JURISDICTION.—The Secretary may promulgate regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States international obligations under the Convention and this Act, applicable to all vessels and persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, including vessels documented under chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code, wherever they may be operating, on such date as the Secretary shall prescribe.''.

SEC. 207. PROHIBITED ACTS.

Section 8 (16 U.S.C. 957) is amended—

(1) by striking ''section 6(c) of this Act'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 6''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(i) ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.—For prohibitions relating to this Act and enforcement of this Act, see section 606 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g).''.

SEC. 208. ENFORCEMENT.

Section 10 (16 U.S.C. 959) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 10. ENFORCEMENT.

''For enforcement of this Act, see section 606 of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826g).''.

SEC. 209. REDUCTION OF BYCATCH.

Section 15 (16 U.S.C. 962) is amended by striking ''vessel'' and inserting ''vessels''.

SEC. 210. REPEAL OF EASTERN PACIFIC TUNA LICENSING ACT OF 1984.

The Eastern Pacific Tuna Licensing Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 972 et seq.) is repealed.

TITLE III—AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Port State Measures Agreement Act of 2015''.

SEC. 302. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to implement the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

SEC. 303. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this title:

(1) The term ''Agreement'' means the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, done at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in Rome, Italy, November 22, 2009, and signed by the United States November 22, 2009.

(2) The term ''IUU fishing'' means any activity set out in paragraph 3 of the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

(3) The term ''listed IUU vessel'' means a vessel that is included in a list of vessels having engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of IUU fishing that has been adopted by a regional fisheries management organization of which the United States is a member, or a list adopted by a regional fisheries management organization of which the United States is not a member if the Secretary determines the criteria used by that organization to create the IUU list is comparable to criteria adopted by RFMOs of which the United States is a member for identifying IUU vessels and activities.

(4) The term ''Magnuson-Stevens Act'' means the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(5) The term ''person'' has the same meaning as that term has in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1802).

(6) The terms ''RFMO'' and ''regional fisheries management organization'' mean a regional fisheries management organization (as that term is defined by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing) that is recognized by the United States.

(7) The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce or his or her designee.

(8) The term ''vessel'' means any vessel, ship of another type, or boat used for, equipped to be used for, or intended to be used for, fishing or fishing-related activities, including container vessels that are carrying fish that have not been previously landed.

(9) The term ''fish'' means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds.

(10) The term ''fishing''—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means—

(i) the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish;

(ii) the attempted catching, taking, or harvesting of fish;

(iii) any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish; or

(iv) any operations at sea in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in clauses (i) through (iii); and

(B) does not include any scientific research activity that is conducted by a scientific research vessel.

SEC. 304. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF THE SECRETARY.

(a) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may, as needed, promulgate such regulations—

(1) in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) consistent with provisions of the title; and

(3) with respect to enforcement measures, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating;

as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this title, to the extent that such regulations are not already promulgated.

(b) PORTS OF ENTRY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, may designate and publicize the ports to which vessels may seek entry. No port may be designated under this section that has not also been designated as a port of entry for customs reporting purposes pursuant to section 1433 of title 19, United States Code, or that is not specified under an existing international fisheries agreement.

(c) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall provide notification of the denial of port entry or the use of port services for a vessel under section 305, the withdrawal of the denial of port services for a foreign vessel, the taking of enforcement action pursuant to section 306 with respect to a foreign vessel, or the results of any inspection of a foreign vessel conducted pursuant to this title to the flag nation of the vessel and, as appropriate, to the nation of which the vessel's master is a national, relevant coastal nations, RFMOs, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other relevant international organizations.

(d) CONFIRMATION THAT FISH WERE TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES.—The Secretary may request confirmation from the flag state of a foreign vessel that the fish on board a foreign vessel in a port subject to the jurisdiction of the United States were taken in accordance with applicable RFMO conservation and management measures.

SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OR DENIAL OF PORT ENTRY.

(a) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A vessel described in paragraph (2) seeking entry to a port that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States must submit to the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating information as required under the Agreement in advance of its arrival in port. The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall provide that information to the Secretary.

(2) COVERED VESSELS.—A vessel referred to in paragraph (1) is any vessel that—

(A) is not documented under chapter 121 of title 46, United States Code; and

(B) is not numbered under chapter 123 of that title.

(b) DECISION TO AUTHORIZE OR DENY PORT ENTRY.—

(1) DECISION.—The Secretary shall decide, based on the information submitted under subsection (a), whether to authorize or deny port entry by the vessel, and shall communicate such decision to—

(A) the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and

(B) the vessel or its representative.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OR DENIAL OF ENTRY.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall authorize or deny entry to vessels to which such a decision applies.

(3) VESSELS TO WHICH ENTRY MAY BE DENIED.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may deny entry to any vessel to which such a decision applies—

(A) that is described in subsection (a)(2); and

(B) that—

(i) is a listed IUU vessel; or

(ii) the Secretary of Commerce has reasonable grounds to believe—

(I) has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of such fishing; or

(II) has violated this title.

(c) DENIAL OF USE OF PORT.—If a vessel described in subsection (a)(2) is in a port that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, at the request of the Secretary, shall deny such vessel the use of the port for landing, transshipment, packaging and processing of fish, refueling, resupplying, maintenance, and drydocking, if—

(1) the vessel entered without authorization under subsection (b);

(2) the vessel is a listed IUU vessel;

(3) the vessel is not documented under the laws of another nation;

(4) the flag nation of the vessel has failed to provide confirmation requested by the Secretary that the fish on board were taken in accordance with applicable RFMO conservation and management measures; or

(5) the Secretary has reasonable grounds to believe—

(A) the vessel lacks valid authorizations to engage in fishing or fishing-related activities

as required by its flag nation or the relevant coastal nation;

(B) the fish on board were taken in violation of foreign law or in contravention of any RFMO conservation and management measure; or

(C) the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of such fishing, including in support of a listed IUU vessel, unless it can establish that—

(i) it was acting in a manner consistent with applicable RFMO conservation and management measures; or

(ii) in the case of the provision of personnel, fuel, gear, and other supplies at sea, the vessel provisioned was not, at the time of provisioning, a listed IUU vessel.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may allow port entry or the use of port services—

(1) if they are essential to the safety or health of the crew or safety of the vessel;

(2) to allow, where appropriate, for the scrapping of the vessel; or

(3) pursuant to an inspection or other enforcement action.

SEC. 306. INSPECTIONS.

The Secretary, and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall conduct foreign vessel inspections in ports subject to the jurisdiction of the United States as necessary to achieve the purposes of the Agreement and this title. If, following an inspection, the Secretary has reasonable grounds to believe that a foreign vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of such fishing, the Secretary may take enforcement action under this title or other applicable law, and shall deny the vessel the use of port services, in accordance with section 305.

SEC. 307. PROHIBITED ACTS.

It is unlawful for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States—

(1) to violate any provision of this title or the regulations issued under this title;

(2) to refuse to permit any authorized officer to board, search, or inspect a vessel that is subject to the person's control in connection with the enforcement of this title or the regulations issued under this title;

(3) to submit false information pursuant to any requirement under this title or the regulations issued under this title; or

(4) to commit any offense enumerated in paragraph (4), (5), (7), or (9) of section 707(a) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6906(a)).

SEC. 308. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) EXISTING AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The authorities and responsibilities under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 311 and subsection (f) of section 308 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1861, 1858) and paragraphs (2), (3), and (7) of section 310(b) of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 2439(b)) shall apply with respect to enforcement of this title.

(2) INCLUDED VESSELS.—For purposes of enforcing this title, any reference in such paragraphs and subsections to a ''vessel'' or ''fishing vessel'' includes all vessels as defined in section 303(8) of this title.

(3) APPLICATION OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—Such paragraphs and subsections apply to violations of this title and any regulations promulgated under this title.

(b) CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) CIVIL ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person who is found by the Secretary (after notice and opportunity for a hearing in accordance with section 554 of title 5, United States Code) to have committed an act prohibited under section 307 shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty. The amount of the civil penalty shall be consistent with the amount under section 308(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1858(a)).

(B) COMPROMISE OR OTHER ACTION BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall have the same authority as provided in section 308(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1858(e)) with respect to a violation of this Act.

(2) IN REM JURISDICTION.—For purposes of this title, the conditions for in rem liability shall be consistent with section 308(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1858(d)).

(3) ACTION UPON FAILURE TO PAY ASSESSMENT.—If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty under this title after it has become a final and unappealable order, or after the appropriate court has entered final judgment in favor of the Secretary, the Secretary shall refer the matter to the Attorney General, who shall recover the amount assessed in any appropriate district court of the United States. In such action, the validity and appropriateness of the final order imposing the civil penalty shall not be subject to review.

(c) FORFEITURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any foreign vessel (including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo) used, and any fish (or the fair market value thereof) imported or possessed in connection with or as result of the commission of any act prohibited by section 307 of this title shall be subject to forfeiture under section 310 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1860).

(2) APPLICATION OF THE CUSTOMS LAWS.—All provisions of law relating to seizure, summary judgment, and judicial forfeiture and condemnation for violation of the customs laws, the disposition of the property forfeited or condemned or the proceeds from the sale thereof, the remission or mitigation of such forfeitures, and the compromise of claims shall apply to seizures and forfeitures incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, under the provisions of this title, insofar as applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions hereof. For seizures and forfeitures of property under this section by the Secretary, such duties as are imposed upon the customs officer or any other person with respect to the seizure and forfeiture of property under the customs law may be performed by such officers as are designated by the Secretary or, upon request of the Secretary, by any other agency that has authority to manage and dispose of seized property.

(3) PRESUMPTION.—For the purposes of this section there is a rebuttable presumption that all fish, or components thereof, found on board a vessel that is used or seized in connection with a violation of this title (including any regulation promulgated under this Act) were taken, obtained, or retained as a result of IUU fishing or fishing-related activities in support of IUU fishing.

(d) CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT.—Any person (other than a foreign government agency, or entity wholly owned by a foreign government) who knowingly commits an act prohibited by section 307 of this title shall be subject to subsections (b) and (c) of section 309 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1859).

(e) PAYMENT OF STORAGE, CARE, AND OTHER COSTS.—Any person assessed a civil penalty for, or convicted of, any violation of this title (including any regulation promulgated under this title) and any claimant in a forfeiture action brought for such a violation, shall be liable for the reasonable costs incurred by the Secretary in storage, care, and maintenance of any property seized in connection with the violation.

SEC. 309. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Consistent with existing authority and the availability of funds, the Secretary shall provide appropriate assistance to developing nations and international organizations of which such nations are members to assist those nations in meeting their obligations under the Agreement.

(b) PERSONNEL, SERVICES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary may, by agreement, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, utilize the personnel, services, equipment, and facilities of any Federal, State, local, or foreign government or any entity of any such government.

SEC. 310. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to displace any requirements imposed by the customs laws of the United States or any other laws or regulations enforced or administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security. Where more stringent requirements regarding port entry or access to port services exist under other Federal law, those more stringent requirements shall apply. Nothing in this title shall affect a vessel's entry into port, in accordance with international law, for reasons of force majeure or distress.

(b) UNITED STATES OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.—This title shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with United States obligations under international law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the Congresswoman from American Samoa, I can confidently say that fishing and the jobs it provides are one of the biggest issues of our territory. It is a way of life. It has shaped our culture, our customs, and our traditions, and that must continue. It is for that reason that I am a cosponsor of H.R. 774, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015.

Sometimes referred to as ''pirate fishing,'' illegal, unreported, and unregulated—or IUU—fishing is a wide range of fishing activities that fail to comply with national, regional, or global fisheries, conservation, and management requirements. These unlawful practices impact various sectors of our seafood industry, which is certainly true in respect to our tuna industry in American Samoa.

By nature, the impact of IUU fishing is difficult to quantify, though some estimates suggest that it results in economic losses between $10 billion to $23 billion worldwide annually. The effects of IUU fishing aren't only felt on the decks of our fishing boats, the impacts that we are talking about here can be felt all the way to your dinner plate.

The intent of H.R. 774 is to ensure that the fishermen that I represent can operate on a level playing field with foreign nation vessels. Specifically, the bill aims to identify and regulate illegal foreign fishing vessels that are hurting our fishermen's ability to provide for their families.

I do have to say that, while I am a cosponsor of this legislation, I wish that we would have been able to come to an agreement on language that I had proposed specific to the actions and regulations administered by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, of which American Samoa is a participating territory.

The intent of my language was to ensure that the Commission could not act in a manner that would hurt our fishermen more than those of other participating foreign nations. All I want is for our fishermen in American Samoa to be on a level playing field with foreign nation vessels to be able to provide for their families.

While we were not able to reach consensus on my proposed language, I look forward to working with my fellow committee colleagues toward a solution to help the fishing industry in American Samoa.

Remaining fair and true to our fishermen is so important in the territory that I represent because the fishing industry is the economic driver of many of our communities. While I will continue to work on those ideas legislatively in another vehicle, this is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I rise to urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 774, a bill that I sponsored. It is the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015.

H.R. 774 would strengthen enforcement mechanisms to combat IUU fishing, which threatens the economic and social infrastructure of our fishing communities and industry. IUU fishing also threatens the security of the United States and our allies. Countries like Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Palau have led the way in combating IUU fishing. I appreciate that the House is finally taking action that will help to demonstrate U.S. leadership on this important issue.

IUU fishing costs our fishing industry over tens of billions of dollars over the years. This tremendous impact on fishing economies undermines their financial security and can destabilize regions. Additionally, in some cases, we have seen IUU fishing facilitates illegal human and wildlife trafficking. IUU is bad for our national security, and we must give U.S. authorities the tools to combat this illegal activity.

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The bill would provide NOAA and the Coast Guard with much-needed tools to fight foreign illegal fishing. It would also implement the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing, a treaty ratified by the Senate that would set international standards for denying port entry and services to vessels that have engaged in illegal fishing.

I am proud to note that H.R. 774 is a truly bipartisan effort, a result of the hard work of both Democratic and Republican staff, the cosponsorships of both Republican and Democratic Members, and the leadership of the Natural Resources Committee, as well as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

I want to thank Matt Strickler and Jean Flemma, the Natural Resources Committee staff, for their tireless work to move this forward.

I would also like to acknowledge the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, the Gulf Coast Leadership Conference, and the countless recreational and commercial fishing businesses across the country for their full-fledged support of this bill.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 774, to ensure that the U.S. remains a leader in ensuring the economic security of our Nation and our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 774, the Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015. H.R. 774 would strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop IUU fishing, which threatens the economic and social infrastructure of our fishing communities and industry, as well as the security of the United States and our allies.

While it is difficult to fully track IUU fishing, it is estimated to have a global value of $10 billion to $23.5 billion, representing between 11 million and 26 million tons of fish. Not only does this kind of fishing harm marine ecosystems and deplete fish stocks around the world, it also causes significant economic harm to U.S. fishermen. For example, the $700 million worth of king crab harvested illegally from Russian waters alone undercuts the prices Alaskan king crab fishermen get for their catch, hurting the bottom line of a fishery that has become a model for sustainable harvest. IUU fishing in Pacific Ocean waters accounts for approximately 33 percent of total catch from those fisheries. IUU fishing on highly migratory stocks like tuna leaves fewer fish in the water for U.S. fishermen who play by the rules, and frustrates our efforts to manage far-ranging stocks responsibly. If stocks fail to recover, additional restrictions may be placed on U.S. fishermen, forcing economic losses and undermining confidence in the fairness of the management system.

In addition to depressing job opportunities and income in the U.S. fishing industry, IUU fishing is also a matter of national and regional security for the U.S. and our allies. IUU fishing is closely associated with various trafficking activities that are highly likely to operate from the same foreign vessels that engage in IUU fishing activities. A 2011 report issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime documented the link between illegal fishing and transnational organized crime including human trafficking, drug smuggling, gun running, terrorism, and even slave labor. Especially given that 91 percent of seafood consumed in the United States is imported, it is critical to ensure that the purchases of unsuspecting Americans are not supporting these activities.

We often view security issues through the traditional prism of hard power, but we need to shift that paradigm, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. IUU fishing has become a significant issue that has caused conflicts between countries and threatens regional stability such as that in the Asia-Pacific region. IUU fishing is a threat to regional security, and we must take steps to address the matter. Banyan Analytics released a report in 2014 that talks about security in the Pacific Island nations, and IUU fishing or food security was a major issue for this region. As we rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, we cannot ignore these types of issues.

Just as importantly, the problem of IUU fishing is not unique to the Western Pacific. Many American communities, from Alaska and the Pacific Northwest to the Gulf Coast and up and down the Atlantic seaboard, face similar challenges that threaten local economies as well as our national food security.

The United States has become a world leader in sustainable management of marine fisheries, in great part due to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In other parts of the world, however, poor fisheries management is more common, and stocks are overharvested—the direct result of IUU fishing.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently reported that no federally-managed fisheries are subject to overfishing. However, that is not the case for many stocks managed by other nations, as well as those managed by several countries through regional fishery management organizations (RFM0s). Over seventy percent of major global marine fish stocks are fully exploited, overexploited, depleted, or recovering from depletion, driven in part by the persistence of IUU fishing.

Our allies and partners have already taken the lead on this issue. The EU Fisheries Council has implemented trade restrictions on countries who do not cooperate in combating IUU fishing. Our partners like Australia, Palau, and Papua New Guinea have all taken action to curb IUU fishing in their own EEZs. We cannot continue to lead from behind on IUU fishing enforcement The United States must take our leadership role in this important national security matter seriously.

I commend the work of the Presidential Task Force on IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud, which is the culmination and continuation of the many years of effort on the part of leaders and stakeholders in our fishing communities, in the seafood sector, and in our conservation community. However, we must

continue to do more. Moreover, H.R. 774 includes provisions that were specifically requested by the Task Force that would enhance the United States' ability to combat IUU fishing.

H.R. 774 is the product of extensive negotiations between Democratic and Republican staff in the last Congress, and I commend the Natural Resources Committee staff, particularly Matt Strickler and former staff Jean Flemma, for their work in moving this legislation forward. It is also supported by a broad coalition that includes the U.S. State Department, fishing industry interests, and conservation groups. I also thank Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and his staff for working with us on this legislation, and for his continued leadership on an issue that impacts many of his Alaska constituents.

I am proud to note that H.R. 774 was introduced with—and quickly gained—strong bipartisan support, which included Mr. DON YOUNG of Alaska; Mr. PETER DEFAZIO, Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; Mr. ROB WITTMAN, Chair of the Subcommittee on Readiness in the Armed Services Committee; Mr. DUNCAN HUNTER and Mr. JOHN GARAMENDI, respectively Chair and Ranking Member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; Mr. ED ROYCE, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and Mr. MICHAEL MCCAUL, Chair of the Homeland Security Committee.

I also acknowledge and thank the leadership of Chairman ROB BISHOP and Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA of the Natural Resources Committee. H.R. 774 passed the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent on April 30, 2015.

I would also like to thank the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, the Gulf Coast Leadership Conference, and the countless recreational and commercial fishing businesses across the country for their full-fledged support of this bill.

It will continue to take a collective effort to prevent IUU fishing, from stakeholders, the White House, and Congress, so I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 774, so that the U.S. remains a leader in ensuring the economic security of our nation and our allies.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 774, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING COMMISSION ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1831) to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1831

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established in the executive branch a commission to be known as the ''Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking'' (in this Act referred to as the ''Commission'').

SEC. 3. MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be comprised of 15 members as follows:

(1) Three shall be appointed by the President, of whom—

(A) one shall be an academic researcher, data expert, or have experience in administering programs;

(B) one shall have expertise in database management, confidentiality, and privacy matters; and

(C) one shall be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (or the Director's designee).

(2) Three shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall have expertise in database management, confidentiality, and privacy matters.

(3) Three shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall have expertise in database management, confidentiality, and privacy matters.

(4) Three shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall have expertise in database management, confidentiality, and privacy matters.

(5) Three shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall have expertise in database management, confidentiality, and privacy matters.

(b) EXPERTISE.—In making appointments under this section, consideration should be given to individuals with expertise in economics, statistics, program evaluation, data security, confidentiality, or database management.

(c) CHAIRPERSON AND CO-CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall select the chairperson of the Commission and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall select the co-chairperson.

(d) TIMING OF APPOINTMENTS.—Appointments to the Commission shall be made not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) TERMS; VACANCIES.—Each member shall be appointed for the duration of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

(g) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) STUDY OF DATA.—The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive study of the data inventory, data infrastructure, and statistical protocols related to Federal policymaking and the agencies responsible for maintaining that data to—

(1) determine the optimal arrangement for which administrative data on Federal programs and tax expenditures, survey data, and related statistical data series may be integrated and made available to facilitate program evaluation, continuous improvement, policy-relevant research, and cost-benefit analyses by qualified researchers and institutions;

(2) make recommendations on how data infrastructure and statistical protocols should be modified to best fulfill the objectives identified in paragraph (1); and

(3) make recommendations on how best to incorporate outcomes measurement, institutionalize randomized controlled trials, and rigorous impact analysis into program design.

(b) CLEARINGHOUSE.—In undertaking the study required by subsection (a), the Commission shall consider whether a clearinghouse for program and survey data should be established and how to create such a clearinghouse. The Commission shall evaluate—

(1) what administrative data and survey data are relevant for program evaluation and Federal policy-making and should be included in a potential clearinghouse;

(2) which survey data the administrative data identified in paragraph (1) may be linked to, in addition to linkages across administrative data series;

(3) what are the legal and administrative barriers to including or linking these data series;

(4) what data-sharing infrastructure should be used to facilitate data merging and access for research purposes;

(5) how a clearinghouse could be self-funded;

(6) which types of researchers, officials, and institutions should have access to data and what their qualifications should be;

(7) what limitations should be placed on the use of data provided;

(8) how to protect information and ensure individual privacy and confidentiality;

(9) how data and results of research can be used to inform program administrators and policymakers to improve program design; and

(10) what incentives may facilitate interagency sharing of information to improve programmatic effectiveness and enhance data accuracy and comprehensiveness.

(c) REPORT.—Upon the affirmative vote of at least three-quarters of the members of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a detailed statement of its findings and conclusions as a result of the activities required by subsections (a) and (b), together with its recommendations for such legislation or administrative actions as the Commission considers appropriate in light of the results of the study.

(d) DEADLINE.—The report under subsection (c) shall be submitted not later than

the date that is 15 months after the date a majority of the members of the Commission are appointed pursuant to section 3.

(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''administrative data'' means data—

(1) held by an agency or a contractor or grantee of an agency (including a State or unit of local government); and

(2) collected for other than statistical purposes.

SEC. 5. OPERATION AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) EXECUTIVE BRANCH ASSISTANCE.—The heads of the following agencies shall advise and consult with the Commission on matters within their respective areas of responsibility:

(1) The Bureau of the Census.

(2) The Internal Revenue Service.

(3) The Department of Health and Human Services.

(4) The Department of Agriculture.

(5) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(6) The Social Security Administration.

(7) The Department of Education.

(8) The Department of Justice.

(9) The Office of Management and Budget.

(10) The Bureau of Economic Analysis.

(11) The Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(12) Any other agency, as determined by the Commission.

(b) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet not later than 30 days after the date upon which a majority of its members have been appointed and at such times thereafter as the chairperson or co-chairperson shall determine.

(c) RULES OF PROCEDURE.—The chairperson and co-chairperson shall, with the approval of a majority of the members of the Commission, establish written rules of procedure for the Commission, which shall include a quorum requirement to conduct the business of the Commission.

(d) HEARINGS.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

(e) CONTRACTS.—The Commission may contract with and compensate government and private agencies or persons for any purpose necessary to enable it to carry out this Act.

(f) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(g) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

SEC. 6. FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b) and the availability of appropriations—

(1) at the request of the Director of the Census, the agencies identified as ''Principal Statistical Agencies'' in the report, published by the Office of Management and Budget, entitled ''Statistical Programs of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2015'' shall transfer funds, as specified in advance in appropriations Acts and in a total amount not to exceed $3,000,000, to the Bureau of the Census for purposes of carrying out the activities of the Commission as provided in this Act; and

(2) the Bureau of the Census shall provide administrative support to the Commission, which may include providing physical space at, and access to, the headquarters of the Bureau of the Census, located in Suitland, Maryland.

(b) PROHIBITION ON NEW FUNDING.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act. This Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for the Bureau of the Census or the agencies described in subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 7. PERSONNEL.

(a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a Director who shall be appointed by the chairperson with the concurrence of the co-chairperson. The Director shall be paid at a rate of pay established by the chairperson and co-chairperson, not to exceed the annual rate of basic pay payable for level V of the Executive Schedule (section 5316 of title 5, United States Code).

(b) STAFF.—The Director may appoint and fix the pay of additional staff as the Director considers appropriate.

(c) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for a comparable position paid under the General Schedule.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1831, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), my friend, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

H.R. 1831 establishes a commission to study data across the Federal Government in order to approve policymaking. Under the bill, the President and the congressional leaders will appoint 15 leading researchers, program administrators, and data and privacy experts who will have 18 months to complete their work.

The commission will determine the best way to make the data accessible they need to make informed policy decisions. It will consider whether or not a clearinghouse would be a more prudent method of coordinating and protecting data.

The commission will also make recommendations on how to incorporate outcome data when designing Federal programs. It will help ensure the taxpayer can track the value of the program from the very first dollar that is spent. Chairman PAUL RYAN has tackled many important issues in this bill, ensuring access to existing Federal data to improve public policy decisionmaking.

The Government Accountability Office repeatedly calls for more and better data for both GAO and agencies to effectively analyze Federal programs. Policymakers need access to data for decisionmaking so the Federal Government can be an effective steward of the taxpayers' money and resources.

The Federal Government administers more than 1,500 different programs, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates the annual Federal spending will exceed $4 trillion in just 2 years' time.

We know that some programs are duplicative or wasteful, but what about all the others? Are they working? Do they make taxpayers' lives better? For the most part, we simply do not know and have the analytics to back it up.

According to two former Office of Management and Budget Directors—OMB Directors—Mr. Jim Nussle and Mr. Peter Orszag, less than 1 percent of Federal spending is based on such evidence.

The first step in ensuring evidence-based policy is to understand what data the Federal Government already has. From there, we can make an informed plan on how to protect the data while ensuring greater access for decisionmakers and a more informed public.

I want to thank Chairman PAUL RYAN for his work to give policymakers and the taxpayer access to the data needed to improve program results.

Senator PATTY MURRAY has introduced the companion bill in the United States Senate, and President Obama has called for an emphasis on evidence-based policies in his budget as well.

I want to thank, again, Chairman RYAN for his leadership and work on the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1831.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act was introduced in the House by Representative PAUL RYAN and in the Senate by Senator PATTY MURRAY on April 16, 2015. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered the bill reported by voice vote on May 19, 2015.

The bill, as amended, will create a 15-member commission to study ways to improve the use of administrative data on Federal programs and tax expenditures. The commission would also consider whether to establish a clearinghouse for information collected by Federal agencies.

Federal agencies collect a large amount of data on existing programs, and they are also the beneficiaries of those programs. Too often, however, Federal agencies do not share data with other agencies or with private researchers in a way that can help determine what is working and what is not.

The administration called for greater use of evidence to improve Federal programs, especially in the areas of education, health, and international development programs. The authors of this

bill have worked with the administration in drafting this legislation.

In examining ways to better use administrative data, it is critical to ensure that the privacy of individuals continues to be protected. That is why the members of this commission would be required to have expertise not only in economics and statistics, but also in data security and confidentiality.

This bill is supported by a wide range of private sector organizations, from The Heritage Foundation to the Urban Institute.

I believe an evidence-based policymaking commission would help us improve the way the Federal Government works. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to highlight the President's budget, on page 65, where it says: ''The Budget also embraces Representative PAUL RYAN and Senator PATTY MURRAY's proposal to create a commission that would make recommendations about how to fully realize the potential of administrative data to improve Federal programs. The proposal exemplifies the high-level and bipartisan momentum for doing more to tap this important resource.''

It is important that we come together. In this case, I want to thank members on both sides of the aisle, there in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

I am somewhat resistant to creating another commission or board; it seems like we have an awful lot of these, but here, we see some good thinking in a bipartisan way with some support from not only the House of Representatives and the United States Senate, but also the President of the United States.

I see fit to pass this out of our committee. It sailed through, and I believe that it is a good bill and would urge our Members to vote ''aye'' in favor of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to state that being a Member of Congress, a freshman, that it is refreshing to be able to stand here today on a bipartisan bill and be supportive.

I do want the RECORD to reflect that the bill would require the President and four congressional leaders to each appoint three commission members. One of the President's appointees will be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget or a designee.

Some members would have to have experience as academic researchers, data experts, or program administrators. Other members would be required to have experience with database management confidentiality and privacy matters. Individuals with expertise in economics, statistics, program, and evaluation will also be considered.

It is important that we understand that there are currently so many of our agencies that are collecting data and that now we have understood and in the spirit of being efficient and being progressive in our government, that this commission will satisfy that.

I am very much in support of this and urge my colleagues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I appreciate the gentlewoman's comments and agree that this is a place where we can come together and work together.

This 15-member commission would be directed to determine the best structure for information that is collected and maintained by Federal agencies.

One of the things that we will all have to be cognizant about is not only making this information available to congressional researchers and people at the GAO or OMB, but also making sure that the public has access to this information for they are, ultimately, the ones that have paid for it, and they should be able to consume it.

In this data-driven age, we should be able to find new methods, whether it is some new app or some other new way to collectively bring this information and have that information that is then passed on and accessible by the public.

I also look forward to Congress receiving the recommendations and would highlight one of the things that I think is good about the structure of this bill is that it expires 18 months after its enactment, so there is a built-in exit here. This does not continue on in perpetuity. It is something that has an expiration date, which we should probably look at on a more frequent basis.

Again, I would urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1831.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few words about what we're trying to do here.

We're trying to change the mindset in Washington.

Right now, when we're making policy, we focus on inputs . . . on effort—like how much money we're spending, how many people we're serving, how many programs we're creating.

What we need to do is focus on outcomes . . . on results—like how many people we're getting out of poverty.

Creating this commission is the first step in a long-term effort.

We're going to bring together the best minds on data collection and figure out how we can up our game.

Let's use the data we're already collecting to improve how government works.

How can we use data to evaluate policy?

How can we protect people's privacy?

How can we get the best results for the American people?

If we do this right, we'll stop having debates over what's Republican and what's Democrat . . . or what's liberal and conservative . . .

And we'll start having debates over what works and what doesn't work.

Those are the kinds of debates we need to have. So I urge all my colleagues to support his bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1831, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 61) amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 61

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This joint resolution may be cited as the ''Hire More Heroes Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING EMPLOYERS TO WHICH THE EMPLOYER MANDATE APPLIES UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an individual shall not be taken into account as an employee for such month if such individual has medical coverage for such month under—

''(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

''(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS; STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO (PAYGO) SCORECARDS.

The budgetary effects of this joint resolution shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 61 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), the author of this legislation, for the purposes of explaining what it does.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of my bill, the Hire More Heroes Act.

This commonsense legislation will help small businesses hire more of our veterans by exempting veterans who are already receiving health care through the DOD or the VA from being counted towards the 50-employee limit for the employer mandate under the Affordable Care Act.

On opening day, the House passed H.R. 22, the Hire More Heroes Act, by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 412–0.

I especially want to thank my colleague from Hawaii, TULSI GABBARD, for working together on this issue. And I also want to take this time, Mr. Speaker, to thank Chairman PAUL RYAN and his entire Ways and Means Committee for ensuring that this very important issue is addressed in this Congress.

In order to maximize the chances for this important legislation to be implemented into law this session, we are again considering the Hire More Heroes Act, which I reintroduced last week as H.J. Res. 61.

H.J. Res. 61 is an example of how Washington is supposed to work. I say this because this idea didn't come from Washington. It came from a member of my Veterans Advisory Board in Madison County, Illinois.

After explaining ObamaCare to veterans throughout southwestern Illinois and how it impacts their VA benefits, this advisory board member, Brad Lavite, began wondering why they were subject to the employer mandate if they were not even in need of health insurance coverage.

His concern was raised with me at one of my Veterans Advisory Board meetings, and shortly thereafter we began work on this Hire More Heroes Act.

This bill will help small businesses, those with less than 50 employees, hire more of our Nation's veterans by making a commonsense change to ObamaCare.

We continue to see this law's lingering impact on our economy, as many small businesses delay hiring, cut hours and, in some cases, reduce payroll.

In fact, the National Small Business Association found that 91 percent of small businesses have seen increases in their healthcare costs, and two-thirds of their members listed the Affordable Care Act as a reason for holding off on investing in people.

Mr. Speaker, when a small business invests in people, that is how America creates jobs.

In my home State of Illinois, it is estimated this year that Affordable Care Act premium increases will rise as much as 30 percent.

By making this commonsense change to the law, we will not only help provide small businesses much-needed relief, but also—the main goal—help veterans, our heroes, find more work.

Despite receiving some of the best training in the world, post-9/11 veterans are consistently faced with higher unemployment rates than that of other veterans.

So as more and more of our veterans return home, the Hire More Heroes Act will give these veterans a boost in this very competitive job market.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this bill passed earlier this year 412–0. I am asking all of my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan policy that will help American businesses hire more of our heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Chairman RYAN.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in active support of this bill. It encourages veteran employment as well as the growth of mid-sized businesses.

The unemployment rate for veterans of recent times has gone down, but it still remains too high. That is especially true for those women who have served in our armed services.

As I talk to veterans at home, the challenge they face continues in terms of employment. In Macomb County, for example, there is a particularly active part of the Vietnam veterans.

That post works day and night to try to get employment for their membership, but there remains a major challenge. This bill will help.

This bill continues to be part of our national commitment to help the veterans who have served this Nation and who deserve the chance as they return to find full-time employment.

So let's all of us, as we did before, vote unanimously for this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, too, want to echo the sentiment here, which is this is just a no-brainer. What I particularly like about this bill is this is just the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) doing his job as a Member of Congress, getting a very constructive idea from a constituent veteran who pointed out a flaw in the law so he went and spoke to his Member of Congress.

His Member of Congress looked at the law, saw that it needed to be changed, and here we are making this change.

This is democracy. This is how this Republic is supposed to work. So I am very pleased to see that we are here doing this on a bipartisan basis.

I was, unfortunately, unavoidably detained for the last bill. I wanted to make just a couple of points on the last suspension that just passed that the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) brought to the floor, H.R. 1831, Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2015.

Right now we spend so much of our time here in Congress and in the Federal Government focusing on measuring success of our policies based on measuring inputs, not outcomes, how many programs are we creating, how much money are we spending, not are these programs working or not.

So we have bipartisan legislation that just passed to create a commission to take a look at the data that we already collect and see if we can give access to academics and use this data more effectively so we can better measure outcomes of our policies.

We want to make sure that we can use our data to evaluate better policy. We want to make sure that we do it in a way that ensures people's privacy.

But we want to move the kind of debate we have been having here from liberal versus conservative or Republican versus Democrat to what works and what doesn't work.

Nowhere is this more crucial than in our efforts to fight poverty, to try to make a difference, to move people from being dependent, from being stuck in poverty, from being frozen in their current station of life, to reigniting the notion of upward mobility and more successfully targeting and going at the root cause of poverty so that we can actually have programs that are measured based on success and outcomes, which is, are we actually getting people out of poverty.

The purpose of the bill that just passed is to reorient our entire way of looking at things so that we can focus on these outcomes. So I just wanted to lend my statement on that.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for bringing this issue with our veterans to our attention. I urge adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. I thank the chairman. And I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come to the floor today again as a supporter of the Hire More Heroes Act. This bill is as commonsense as they come. It exempts our heroes, those veterans and Active-Duty military from counting towards the President's employer mandate penalty tax.

These veterans and Active-Duty military already receive health insurance

through the VA and TRICARE. So requiring these employers to provide them with health insurance is redundant and could also have the unintended effect of discouraging employers from hiring these folks.

This part of the President's healthcare law is clearly not drafted in a thoughtful manner.

I urge my colleagues again today to vote in favor of this bill that would eliminate the unnecessary confusion and encourage businesses to hire more heroes.

Finally, I urge the Senate to pass this legislation so that it can finally get to the President's desk.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for the purpose of closing.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I again thank the chairman.

Thank you to Ranking Member LEVIN and all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for looking at this very important issue, this correction that needed to be made so that our veterans get the opportunities they deserve.

I would like to thank my colleague from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) for coming to the floor today to talk about how important this issue is.

I urge all of my colleagues to listen to everybody on the floor today and the bipartisan consensus to, once again, pass this commonsense piece of legislation.

I also want to thank the veterans that I have the honor to serve in Illinois. This idea came from one of them, a constituent who saw the flaw.

Now we have the chance to, once again, correct it. I hope this bill can get to the President's desk.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 61.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID ACT OF 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1482) to improve and reauthorize provisions relating to the application of the antitrust laws to the award of need-based educational aid.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1482

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF THE ANTRITRUST LAWS TO THE AWARD OF NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID.

Section 568 of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (15 U.S.C. 1 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a period at the end; and

(C) by striking paragraph (4); and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2022''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 1482, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2015, continues an antitrust exemption that is set to expire on September 30, 2015. The exemption allows participating colleges and universities to collaborate on a set of criteria to determine applicants' needs for private financial aid.

To be clear, this exemption does not apply to Federal financial aid, only to aid directly provided by the participating colleges and universities.

The Antitrust Modernization Commission generally cautioned against antitrust exemptions and recommended that Congress closely examine any proposed antitrust immunities.

The antitrust exemption continued by S. 1482 has been in place since 1992. Over the past 23 years, Congress has extended the antitrust exemption on four separate occasions, each time with broad, bipartisan support.

Additionally, the Government Accountability Office conducted a study to determine whether the exemption adversely impacted the affordability of college and concluded that it did not.

While S. 1482 continues the existing antitrust exemption, it also narrows it in recognition of the fact that one of the practices allowed by that exemption has not been utilized by participating colleges and universities. Accordingly, the legislation limits the scope of antitrust exemption to those activities that colleges and universities truly need and use.

Given the lengthy legislative record, the narrowed scope of the exemption, the GAO study on the effects of the bill, and the 7-year sunset included in the bill, I believe that S. 1482 proposes a safe extension of a reasonable and worthwhile antitrust exemption.

I thank the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Congressman SMITH, for introducing the House version of this legislation, H.R. 2604, which the Judiciary Committee ordered favorably reported without amendment.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1482, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2015, would extend an exemption to the Federal antitrust laws that permits some of our Nation's most prestigious colleges and universities to agree to admit students on a need-blind basis and award financial aid to students with the most demonstrated need.

I am pleased to serve as the lead Democratic cosponsor of the House companion to this bipartisan legislation. S. 1482 allows colleges and universities that admit students on a need-blind basis to collaborate on the formula they use to determine how much families can pay for college.

This exemption was first enacted in 1992, and since then, Congress has reauthorized it four times without opposition, most recently in 2008.

In addition to allowing collaboration on a common formula for calculating an applicant's ability to pay for college, the exemption also allows academic institutions to agree to award aid only on the basis of financial need.

In other words, this exemption ensures that the most qualified students may attend some of our Nation's most prestigious schools, regardless of family income. This is especially important for low-income students, who should not be forced to choose between academic institutions on the basis of financial need or financial aid alone.

While I think we could do more to empower students through better funding of higher education, this legislation is critical to preserving a level playing field for students at these institutions through a need-blind admissions process.

The 568 Presidents' Group, a coalition of 23 prestigious colleges and universities that support need-based financial aid, strongly supports this bill.

In a letter sent to the Judiciary Committee earlier this year, the 568 Presidents' Group stated that the exemption allows institutions to maximize the allocation of financial aid to ''ensure that those funds are targeted to benefit the students with the greatest financial need and to reduce or, in some cases, eliminate debt loads on graduation.''

Similarly, the presidents of Duke and Cornell have written in support of this legislation, stating that the exemption ''makes a real difference for our students'' and is essential to developing

the ''best practices to calculate institutional aid awards.''

We should move quickly to adopt this legislation and ensure that this important exemption does not expire.

In closing, I thank my colleague Congressman LAMAR SMITH, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for his steadfast leadership on this bill since the 105th Congress and during this Congress.

I also thank my Senate colleagues, Senate Judiciary Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member GRASSLEY, for their leadership on the bill.

I encourage my colleagues to support S. 1482, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Science Committee, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and the chief sponsor of the House version of this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my friend from Virginia, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, BOB GOODLATTE, for yielding me time and also for bringing this bill to the House floor.

I support S. 1482, the Need-Based Educational Aid Act. As the author of the identical House bill, I am pleased that we are considering it today.

The Need-Based Educational Aid Act extends the current antitrust exemptions set to expire on September 30 for another 7 years. It allows a limited number of private universities that admit students on need-blind basis to award financial aid from the schools' own funds, based entirely on students' demonstrated financial need.

This bill authorizes these institutions of higher education to use common principles to assess students' financial need, and it allows the schools to use a common financial aid application form.

It also permits multiple schools that have accepted the same student to award the same assistance. This ensures that the student selects the college that is the best fit, rather than the school that offered the most financial aid.

This issue has long been of interest to me personally, having worked on three previous extensions. Common treatment of this narrow category of educational aid makes sense. A Government Accountability Office study previously found that there has been no abuse of the antitrust exemption and that tuition has not gone up as a result.

The Need-Based Educational Aid Act helps ensure that financial aid is available to students solely on the basis of demonstrated need. Students who otherwise qualify should not be denied the opportunity to access higher education due to limited financial means. S. 1482 protects this need-based aid and need-blind admissions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Georgia, HANK JOHNSON, a member of the Judiciary Committee, for being the original co-author of the identical House bill and for his leadership on this particular issue.

I urge my colleagues to support the Need-Based Educational Aid Act.

Again, I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for bringing it to the House floor.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would, at this time, like to thank my chairman, BOB GOODLATTE, of the Judiciary Committee, for his expeditious bringing of this legislation to the committee and now to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH); the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS; and others for this very bipartisan legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1482.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SECRET SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1656) to provide for additional resources for the Secret Service, and to improve protections for restricted areas, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1656

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Secret Service Improvements Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF THE SECRET SERVICE.

Section 3056 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end:

''(h) The Director of the Secret Service shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Director of the Secret Service is the head of the Secret Service.''.

SEC. 3. RESTRICTED BUILDING OR GROUNDS.

Section 1752(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by inserting ''or'' at the end; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) knowingly, and with the intent to enter a restricted building or grounds, causes any object to enter any restricted building or grounds, when, or so that, such object, in fact, impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of government business or official functions;''.

SEC. 4. THREATS AGAINST FORMER VICE PRESIDENTS.

Section 879(a)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 3056(a)(6)'' and inserting ''paragraph (6) or (8) of section 3056(a)''.

SEC. 5. INCREASED TRAINING.

Beginning in the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Secret Service shall increase the annual number of hours spent training by officers and agents of the Secret Service, including officers of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division established under section 3056A of title 18, United States Code and agents operating pursuant to section 3056 of title 18, United States Code, including joint training between the two.

SEC. 6. TRAINING FACILITIES.

The Director of the Secret Service is authorized to construct facilities at the Rowley Training Center necessary to improve the training of officers of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division established under section 3056A of title 18, United States Code and agents of the United States Secret Service, operating pursuant to section 3056 of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 7. HIRING OF ADDITIONAL OFFICERS AND AGENTS.

The Director of the Secret Service is authorized to hire not fewer than—

(1) 200 additional officers for the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division established under section 3056A of title 18, United States Code; and

(2) 85 additional agents for the United States Secret Service Presidential Protective Detail, operating pursuant to section 3056 of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 8. EVALUATION OF VULNERABILITIES AND THREATS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Secret Service shall devise and adopt improved procedures for evaluating vulnerabilities in the security of the White House and threats to persons protected by the Secret Service, including threats posed by unmanned aerial systems or explosive devices.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Secret Service shall report on the implementation of subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(4) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(5) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 9. EVALUATION OF USE OF TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Secret Service, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, and other experts, shall devise and adopt improved procedures for—

(1) evaluating the ways in which technology may be used to improve the security of the White House and the response to threats to persons protected by the Secret Service; and

(2) retaining evidence pertaining to the duties referred to in paragraph (1) for an extended period of time.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Secret Service shall report on the implementation of subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(4) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(5) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 10. EVALUATION OF USE OF ADDITIONAL WEAPONRY.

The Director of the Secret Service shall evaluate the practicability of equipping agents and officers with weapons other than those provided to officers and agents of the Secret Service as of the date of enactment of this Act, including nonlethal weapons.

SEC. 11. SECURITY COSTS FOR SECONDARY RESIDENCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Presidential Protection Assistance Act of 1976 (18 U.S.C. 3056 note) is amended by striking section 4 and inserting the following:

''SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION REGARDING EXPENDITURES ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL PROPERTIES.

''The Secret Service shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate of any expenditures for permanent facilities, equipment, and services to secure any non-Governmental property in addition to the one non-Governmental property designated by each protectee under subsection (a) or (b) of section 3.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Presidential Protection Assistance Act of 1976 (18 U.S.C. 3056 note), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in section 3(b), by striking ''any expenditures by the Secret Service'' and all that follows through ''imposed under section 4'' and inserting ''any expenditures by the Secret Service for permanent facilities, equipment, and services to secure the non-Governmental property previously designated under subsection (a) are subject to the requirements set forth in section 4''; and

(2) in section 5(c), by striking ''within the limitations imposed under section 4''.

SEC. 12. ESTABLISHMENT OF ETHICS PROGRAM OFFICE.

Subject to the oversight of the Office of Chief Counsel of the United States Secret Service, the Director of the Secret Service shall establish an Ethics Program Office, consisting of a minimum of 2 employees, to administer the provisions of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, and to provide increased training to employees of the United States Secret Service.

SEC. 13. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that an assessment made by the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Director of the Secret Service with regard to physical security of the White House and attendant grounds, and any security-related enhancements thereto should be accorded substantial deference by the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and any other relevant entities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Secret Service has two primary missions: criminal investigations and protection of the President, Vice President, and other dignitaries. As a result, the Secret Service is entrusted with protecting some of our most valuable assets. This is an extremely difficult, high-profile mission, in an environment with zero margin for error.

The Secret Service is comprised of many outstanding and upstanding men and women who do excellent work; however, over the last few years, a series of embarrassing scandals, security failures, and instances of poor judgment have rocked the Secret Service. These incidents range from agents' use of prostitutes while on official travel to Colombia; to an incident in the Netherlands involving intoxicated agents; to the agency's failure to initially apprehend fence jumper Omar Gonzalez, who was later arrested inside the White House.

Following these incidents, the President appointed a new director of the Secret Service, Joseph Clancy, who has implemented a number of reforms. The President also appointed a panel of experts to recommend changes to the Secret Service. Through this committee's oversight and the recommendations of the panel, it is clear that, despite Director Clancy's initiatives, legislative action is still necessary.

We must ensure that the agency's officers and agents are properly trained in order to successfully identify potential threats and prevent them from materializing, as well as to ensure that the agency has the tools it needs to carry out its mission.

H.R. 1656, the Secret Service Improvements Act of 2015, is bipartisan legislation introduced to provide much-needed resources to the agency and implement many of the U.S. Secret Service Protective Mission Panel's recommendations for improvements for the agency. I am pleased to have worked on this legislation with Judiciary Committee Ranking Member CONYERS, Crime Subcommittee Chairman SENSENBRENNER, and Ranking Member JACKSON LEE.

This bill makes much-needed improvements to the Secret Service. These improvements strengthen the security of the President, other protectees, and the White House complex; enhance Secret Service officers' and agents' training; and increase the agency's manpower.

This legislation also improves transparency and accountability within the agency by requiring Senate confirmation of the Director of the Secret Service. The person entrusted to not only protect the President, but to also head a $1.5 billion Federal law enforcement agency, should be subject to the same process of advice and consent of the Senate as his counterparts at other comparable agencies.

Finally, this legislation creates an ethics office within the office of the general counsel in order to respond to rectify and help prevent misconduct at the agency.

The resources and improvements provided by this legislation will help to reform the Secret Service and to restore the trust that Congress, the President, and the American people must have in the vital tasks that the Secret Service carries out every single day.

This bill passed unanimously from the Judiciary Committee, and I urge my House colleagues to join me in support of the legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1600

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1656, the Secret Service Improvements Act, will assist the Secret Service with its critical mission of protecting the President and Vice President and other dignitaries as well as with its investigative role in protecting our Nation's financial infrastructure against criminal threats.

This important bill was introduced by the bipartisan leadership of the Judiciary Committee: Chairman BOB GOODLATTE, Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, Crime Subcommittee Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER, and Crime Subcommittee Ranking Member SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1656 was developed to address shortcomings related to the Secret Service that have come to light in recent years.

Unfortunately, the image of this once revered agency has been tarnished both because of the misbehavior of agents and of the performance issues that have resulted in security lapses. Last fall, the Judiciary Committee held an important oversight hearing to review the operation of this vitally important agency.

Then-Acting Director Joseph Clancy, who has since taken on the job on a more permanent basis, came before the committee to discuss the mission of the agency and issues relating to recent lapses in security that could have jeopardized the individuals the agency is sworn to protect. In particular, the committee engaged in a frank discussion about the unacceptable incident last September in which a man was able to jump over the White House's fence, run past Secret Service officers, and enter the White House.

We learned that, while there were performance errors made by some of the officers that day, the protective mission of the Secret Service has been jeopardized largely because the agency has been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. Personnel levels are unacceptably low; the long hours on duty leave little time for training; equipment and technological systems are not upgraded or integrated sufficiently; and the culture of the agency has suffered from poor leadership.

These conclusions were confirmed and expanded upon by the review panel established by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson in the wake of the White House's intrusion last year. H.R. 1656 was introduced to address several categories of these challenges to the mission of the Secret Service: leadership, resources, training, authorities, and personal conduct:

With respect to leadership, the bill requires the position of Director of the Secret Service to be confirmed by the Senate after the Presidential nomination;

With respect to resources, the bill authorizes the hiring of additional personnel and requires a review of the agency's use of technology, an area of concern based on past security lapses;

With respect to training, the bill requires more training for agents and Uniformed Division officers, and it also authorizes the construction of better training facilities;

With respect to authorities, the bill allows the agency to investigate threats against former Vice Presidents in the same way it investigates threats against former Presidents;

With respect to personal conduct, the bill establishes an Ethics Program Office that will emphasize the need for agency personnel to conduct themselves according to established ethical standards.

The goal of this bill is to prevent future security lapses similar to what the agency has experienced in recent years and to protect against even more sophisticated threats that could result in far more harm.

This is a strong, bipartisan bill that, I hope, will soon become law. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate my good friend from Georgia for yielding to me to speak on this Secret Service reform bill and on the work of the chairman of the committee, Mr. GOODLATTE from Virginia, on this bill.

Our Oversight and Government Reform Committee held several hearings on Secret Service reform, and much of the content, I am pleased to say, is reflected in H.R. 1656. There, of course, have been an increasing number of fence jumpers in recent years, but it took a stunning penetration to the very interior of the White House by Omar Gonzalez last year to make it clear that the reform of the Secret Service was urgent.

At hearings, we learned that there had never been—not once—a top-to-bottom review of the Secret Service in its more than 100 years of existence. This was, clearly, urgently needed; so Secretary Jeh Johnson appointed the first independent review panel. What it found was, across the board, weakness and flaws in the United States Secret Service.

Although its mission has expanded greatly over the years, today, the Secret Service simply does not reflect the post-9/11 experience, much less that of today's ISIL and domestic terrorism. The fence jumpers had already shown that the Secret Service could not be expected to meet its zero failure mission.

Today's bill shows that Congress takes the reform of the Secret Service very seriously. The funding, which is usually missing from such reform these days, is authorized, and the bill adopts much of the independent review's recommendations:

Instead of blaming overworked uniformed Secret Service and agents who have been working 6 and 7 days a week for 12 hours a day because of no additional personnel, the bill authorizes the addition of 80 agents and 200 Uniformed Division personnel, which is virtually what the independent review panel recommended;

The bill increases the number of hours of training to meet the Secret Service's expanded mission;

It faces the need to make greater use of technology, and it even takes note of a post-fence jumper phenomenon, the unmanned drones that have become a new form of fence jumping.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. NORTON. I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, the space in front of the White House is a First Amendment park. I was invited down to a commemoration by citizens, who come every Monday to urge the reform of our gun laws.

To respond to fence jumping, some had talked of making it difficult for the public to come to that space in front of Pennsylvania Avenue. At hearings, I was assured that that was not necessary; and this bill backs that up. Spikes have been added for the fence jumpers, making it difficult to jump over, but Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to see today that the public continues to use Pennsylvania Avenue as the First Amendment space it has always been.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentleman from Georgia and the ranking member of the committee, Mr. CONYERS, as well as Mr. SENSENBRENNER and the ranking member of the subcommittee, Ms. JACKSON LEE.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1656, the "Secret Service Improvements Act of 2015."

The "Secret Service Improvements Act," is important because it will provide vital resources and strengthen protections of this important agency.

The Secret Service agency is one of the most elite law enforcement organizations in the world and has earned this reputation by providing 140 years of unparalleled service to this nation.

However, the Secret Service is facing a number of challenges, including the need for more resources, better training, better use of technology, and a better understanding of emerging threats.

This bill addresses each of these needs.

I am particularly pleased that Section 14 of this bill incorporates my amendment to create an Ethics Program Office to fully and effectively implement and administer the ethics laws, regulations, and policies governing Secret Service employees.

In recent years, the image of this once-revered agency has been tarnished—both because of misbehavior of agents and performance issues that resulted in security lapses.

Much of the negative attention on the personal behavior of Secret Service agents was initially prompted by the revelations in 2012 involving the solicitation of prostitutes by agents of the Secret Service in Cartagena, Colombia.

At the time, it was reported that a dozen Secret Service agents engaged the services of prostitutes before a presidential visit to Colombia for the Summit of the Americas.

I attended that Summit and was appalled to have learned of the behavior of some of the agents.

In my capacity as Ranking Member of the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Crime and Senior Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I examined the Cartagena incident, and met with then-Director Mark Sullivan to express my concern and press for strong corrective action.

In fact, I have engaged in persistent oversight with respect to issues involving the Secret Service, ranging from the intrusion into the White House last year to the 2009 incident in which a couple evaded security to attend a state dinner at the White House honoring the Prime Minister of India.

I have met with Directors of the Secret Service on multiple occasions over the past several years to discuss and address performance and misconduct issues.

Agent misconduct of the sorts that have taken place in recent years is unacceptable.

It is more than offensive—it jeopardizes the ability of the agency to carry out its core mission.

To address misconduct issues and ethical lapses by Secret Service personnel, the manager's amendment includes a provision I developed, in cooperation with the Secret Service, that will help elevate the issue of ethical conduct at the agency through the creation of an Ethics Program Office.

With respect to other issues related to the protection provided by the Secret Service, it is

clear that the agency has been operating at an unacceptable level of resources.

The agency is understaffed at the agent and Uniform Division levels, resulting in shifts that are too long and which leave inadequate time for training.

The agency also needs to better use state-of-the-art technology and communications equipment.

All of these deficiencies contributed to the security breakdowns that allowed a man to climb over the White House fence, evade Secret Service officers while running across the White House lawn, and then run into the White House itself.

The goal of H.R. 1656 is to prevent future such incidents—and to protect against even more sophisticated threats that could result in far more harm.

This bill also would require that future directors of the Secret Service, after nomination by the President, be subject to Senate confirmation.

The current Director, Joseph Clancy, appears to be doing a good job in reinvigorating that agency, and we do not propose this as a criticism of him, or the President's selection of him, in any way.

However, this position—as is the case with the directors of the other law enforcement components of the Department of Homeland Security—should be Senate-confirmed, reinforcing the need to appoint the most highly-qualified candidates and elevating the position in stature.

With the consideration of this legislation today, we recognize that it is unfortunately the case that the Secret Service has recently failed to live up to its high standards with respect to the protection it provides our President and others.

By adopting the ''Secret Service Improvements Act,'' we can help restore the agency so that it will be better prepared to achieve its mission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1656, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1634) to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1634

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Border Security Technology Accountability Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 434. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

''(a) PLANNING DOCUMENTATION.—For each border security technology acquisition program of the Department that is determined to be a major acquisition program, the Secretary shall—

''(1) ensure that each such program has a written acquisition program baseline approved by the relevant acquisition decision authority;

''(2) document that each such program is meeting cost, schedule, and performance thresholds as specified in such baseline, in compliance with relevant departmental acquisition policies and the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

''(3) have a plan for meeting program implementation objectives by managing contractor performance.

''(b) ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Management and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall ensure border security technology acquisition program managers who are responsible for carrying out this section adhere to relevant internal control standards identified by the Comptroller General of the United States. The Commissioner shall provide information, as needed, to assist the Under Secretary in monitoring proper program management of border security technology acquisition programs under this section.

''(c) PLAN.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Management, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for testing and evaluation, as well as the use of independent verification and validation resources, for border security technology so that new border security technologies are evaluated through a series of assessments, processes, and audits to ensure compliance with relevant departmental acquisition policies and the Federal Acquisition Regulation, as well as the effectiveness of taxpayer dollars.

''(d) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'major acquisition program' means a Department acquisition program that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least $300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2015 constant dollars) over its life cycle cost.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 433 the following new item:

''Sec. 434. Border security technology program management.''.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act. This Act and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1634, the Border Security Technology Accountability Act, which I introduced earlier this year.

This bill seeks to provide the improved management of border security technology projects, safeguarding taxpayer dollars and increasing accountability for some of the Department of Homeland Security's largest acquisition programs.

The constituents I represent in southern Arizona are demanding better border security, and they expect us to do it through cost-effective and efficient means. They know that wasting taxpayer dollars on poorly managed border technology projects does little to actually secure the border or to improve our strategy. That is why this bill is so important.

The GAO has repeatedly included DHS acquisition management activities on its high-risk list, demonstrating that these programs are highly susceptible to waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement. The Secure Border Initiative, also known as SBInet, is a prime example of acquisition mismanagement at DHS. Initial plans developed in 2005 and 2006 called for the SBInet to extend across the entire U.S.-Mexico land border. However, SBInet deployment in my home State of Arizona was fraught with management problems, including a failure to adequately set requirements so the system would meet the needs of its users—our border patrol agents. After spending nearly $1 billion of the taxpayers' money with minimal results, DHS canceled SBInet in 2011.

SBInet is not the only example, as DHS does not seem to be learning its lesson. The Government Accountability Office recently reported to the Committee on Homeland Security that Customs and Border Protection's Strategic Air and Marine Plan—or StAMP—initiated in 2006, with a cost of $1.8 billion to date, still does not have an approved acquisition program baseline. This means that, despite CBP's plans to acquire boats and aircraft through 2035, they have not yet estimated how much it would cost to operate and maintain these systems.

How can we ensure programs like StAMP are on time, on budget, and are fiscally sound if DHS fails to follow sound management procedures?

We cannot afford to waste another minute or another dollar. We must put

in place strong, effective technology programs to secure our borders. This bill requires that border security technology programs at the Department have an acquisition program baseline—a critical document that lays out what a program will do, what it will cost, and when it will be completed.

□ 1615

The bill also requires programs to adhere to internal control standards and have a plan for testing and evaluation as well as the use of independent verification and validation resources.

My district includes over 80 miles of our U.S. border with Mexico, and I have spent countless hours at the border meeting with border residents and our Border Patrol.

I know firsthand that, when our border technology project lacks the proper oversight and accountability, it is bad for the taxpayers, those who defend our border and those who live along our border.

The Committee on Homeland Security approved my legislation by a unanimous voice vote last month. I urge all Members to join me in supporting robust, responsible secure technology along our border.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1634, the Border Security Technology Accountability Act of 2015.

Over the past several years, the Government Accountability Office has examined the various Department of Homeland Security programs and concluded that DHS has not followed standard best practices for acquisitions management.

Though DHS has taken steps to improve its performance, specific deficiencies in how the Department carries out major acquisitions remain.

When a DHS acquisition program falls short in terms of effectiveness or efficiency, it not only risks undermining that program, but also risks wasting limited Homeland Security dollars.

For example, DHS spent hundreds of millions of dollars on the SBInet border security program before it was ultimately canceled. No doubt, this funding could have been put to far better use along our Nation's border.

The Border Security Technology Accountability Act would require each of the Department's major acquisitions for border security technology to have written documentation reflecting a baseline approved by the relevant acquisition decision authority and demonstrate that the program is meeting agreed-upon cost, schedule, and performance thresholds before moving into the next phase of the acquisition cycle.

The bill also requires the Under Secretary for Management, in coordination with the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, to submit to Congress a plan for testing and evaluation as well as the use of independent verification and validation resources for border security technology.

There is need for improving acquisitions management at the Department of Homeland Security as a whole, and addressing border security technology acquisitions is an important step. We owe it to the American taxpayers to make sure we are managing these investments wisely and preventing wasteful spending.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1634 aims to focus and improve the way we invest in and manage border security technology by providing a specific framework for accountability and oversight on behalf of the American taxpayer.

I thank Congresswoman MCSALLY for her leadership in bringing this bill forward, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my colleague, Mr. VELA, for his support and all of my colleagues on our committee for support for this bill.

I once again urge my colleagues to support transparency, accountability, and efficiency of vital border security technology projects.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1634, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRECLEARANCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 998) to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 998

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Preclearance Authorization Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS.

Pursuant to section 1629 of title 19, United States Code, and subject to section 5, the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in a foreign country to—

(1) prevent terrorists, instruments of terrorism, and other security threats from entering the United States;

(2) prevent inadmissible persons from entering the United States;

(3) ensure merchandise destined for the United States complies with applicable laws;

(4) ensure the prompt processing of persons eligible to travel to the United States; and

(5) accomplish such other objectives as the Secretary determines necessary to protect the United States.

SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.

(a) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days before entering into an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in such foreign country, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A copy of the proposed agreement to establish such preclearance operations, including an identification of the foreign country with which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to enter into a preclearance agreement, the location at which such preclearance operations will be conducted, and the terms and conditions for U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel operating at the location.

(2) An estimate of the date on which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to establish preclearance operations under such agreement.

(3) The anticipated funding sources for preclearance operations under such agreement, and other funding sources considered.

(4) An assessment of the impact such preclearance operations will have on legitimate trade and travel, including potential impacts on passengers traveling to the United States.

(5) A homeland security threat assessment for the country in which such preclearance operations are to be established.

(6) An assessment of the impacts such preclearance operations will have on U.S. Customs and Border Protection domestic port of entry staffing.

(7) Information on potential economic, competitive, and job impacts on United States air carriers associated with establishing such preclearance operations.

(8) Information on the anticipated homeland security benefits associated with establishing such preclearance operations.

(9) Information on potential security vulnerabilities associated with commencing such preclearance operations, and mitigation plans to address such potential security vulnerabilities.

(10) A U.S. Customs and Border Protection staffing model for such preclearance operations, and plans for how such positions would be filled.

(11) Information on the anticipated costs over the next five fiscal years associated with commencing such preclearance operations.

(12) A copy of the agreement referred to in subsection (a) of section 5.

(13) Other factors that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines to be necessary for Congress to comprehensively assess the appropriateness of commencing such preclearance operations.

(b) CERTIFICATIONS RELATING TO PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS ESTABLISHED AT AIRPORTS.—In the case of an airport, in addition to the notification requirements under subsection (a), not later than 90 days before

entering into an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations at an airport in such foreign country, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A certification that preclearance operations under such preclearance agreement would provide homeland security benefits to the United States.

(2) A certification that preclearance operations within such foreign country will be established under such agreement only if—

(A) at least one United States passenger carrier operates at such airport; and

(B) the access of all United States passenger carriers to such preclearance operations is the same as the access of any non-United States passenger carrier.

(3) A certification that the Secretary of Homeland Security has considered alternative options to preclearance operations and has determined that such options are not the most effective means of achieving the objectives specified in section 3.

(4) A certification that the establishment of preclearance operations in such foreign country will not significantly increase customs processing times at United States airports.

(5) An explanation of other objectives that will be served by the establishment of preclearance operations in such foreign country.

(6) A certification that representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection consulted publically with interested parties, including providers of commercial air service in the United States, employees of such providers, security experts, and such other parties as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, before entering into such an agreement with such foreign government.

(7) A report detailing the basis for the certifications referred to in paragraphs (1) through (6).

(c) MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 30 days before substantially modifying a preclearance agreement with the government of a foreign country in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of the proposed agreement, as modified, and the justification for such modification.

(d) REMEDIATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall monthly measure the average customs processing time to enter the 25 United States airports that support the highest volume of international travel (as determined by available Federal passenger data) and provide to the appropriate congressional committees such measurements.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—Based on the measurements described in paragraph (1), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall quarterly assess whether the average customs processing time referred to in such paragraph significantly exceeds the average customs processing time to enter the United States through a preclearance operation.

(3) SUBMISSION.—Based on the assessment conducted under paragraph (2), if the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the average customs processing time referred to in paragraph (1) significantly exceeds the average customs processing time to enter the United States through a preclearance operation described in paragraph (2), the Commissioner shall, not later than 60 days after making such determination, provide to the appropriate congressional committees a remediation plan for reducing such average customs processing time referred to in paragraph (1).

(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 30 days after submitting the remediation plan referred to in paragraph (3), the Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection shall implement those portions of such plan that can be carried out using existing resources, excluding the transfer of personnel.

(5) SUSPENSION.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection does not submit the remediation plan referred to in paragraph (3) within 60 days in accordance with such paragraph, the Commissioner may not, until such time as such remediation plan is submitted, conduct any negotiations relating to preclearance operations at an airport in any country or commence any such preclearance operations.

(6) STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS.—The remediation plan described in paragraph (3) shall consider recommendations solicited from relevant stakeholders.

(e) CLASSIFIED REPORT.—The assessment required pursuant to subsection (a)(5) and the report required pursuant to subsection (b)(7) may be submitted in classified form if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such is appropriate.

SEC. 5. AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING AT PRECLEARANCE AIRPORTS.

(a) AVIATION SECURITY STANDARDS AGREEMENT.—Prior to the commencement of preclearance operations at an airport in a foreign country under this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall enter into an agreement with the government of such foreign country that delineates and requires the adoption of aviation security screening standards that are determined by the Administrator to be comparable to those of the United States.

(b) AVIATION SECURITY RESCREENING.—If the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration determines that the government of a foreign country has not maintained security standards and protocols comparable to those of the United States at airports at which preclearance operations have been established in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator shall require the rescreening in the United States by the Transportation Security Administration of passengers and their property before such passengers may deplane into sterile areas of airports in the United States.

(c) SELECTEES.—Any passenger who is determined to be a selectee based on a check against a terrorist watch list and arrives on a flight originating from a foreign airport at which preclearance operations have been established in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), shall be required to undergo security rescreening by the Transportation Security Administration before being permitted to board a domestic flight in the United States.

SEC. 6. LOST AND STOLEN PASSPORTS.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may not enter into or renew an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish or maintain U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations at an airport in such foreign country unless such government certifies—

(1) that it routinely submits information about lost and stolen passports of its citizens and nationals to INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Document database; or

(2) makes available to the United States Government such information through another comparable means of reporting.

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except for subsection (c) of section 4, this Act shall apply only to the establishment of preclearance operations in a foreign country in which no preclearance operations have been established as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER from Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER from Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 998. Few issues actually have kept the CBP leadership busier over the last year than preclearance.

Failure to properly consult with stakeholders on preclearance expansion at Abu Dhabi caused a lot of consternation on Capitol Hill and certainly in the Homeland Security Committee last Congress.

This lack of appropriate congressional coordination and notification troubled many Members as well as the affected stakeholders, specifically, the airline industry.

We now hope that the Department will keep Congress fully abreast of future plans, especially in light of their recent announcement of the intention to expand preclearance to ten additional locations.

This bill, we believe, sets the groundwork for greater oversight and coordination on future preclearance operations.

I certainly want to thank Mr. MEEHAN from Pennsylvania, who was actually a former member on the Homeland Security Committee, who raised concerns with the Department of Homeland Security preclearance operations early in the Abu Dhabi agreement process.

His leadership has really been very, very important to the success of the legislation that we are considering today, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly we support preclearance where it makes sense as well as other CBP efforts to push out the border, if you will.

Preclearance has been an effective security screening and trade facilitation tool since the early 1950s, actually. Of course, since 9/11, the security value of these operations has only been heightened.

However, the mistakes of the Abu Dhabi agreement cannot be repeated. Expansion of preclearance must be done in such a way that it supports our security and does not disadvantage our domestic airlines.

This bill was very carefully crafted after several oversight hearings and numerous consultations with the Department, the airline industry, and Members from both parties. It is a bipartisan bill.

This bill sets the contours for future preclearance operations and incorporates a series of notifications and certifications, including a justification that outlines the Homeland Security benefit and impact to domestic staffing and wait times of any new preclearance operations.

As well, this bill requires that Congress be notified in the event that Department of Homeland Security modifies or changes an existing agreement at any one of the 17 existing preclearance locations.

Most importantly, we think, this bill makes very clear the Department of Homeland Security cannot establish new locations without conducting the due diligence that we in Congress expect.

Mr. Speaker, we need to balance security operations and economic impact here at home.

Finally, I would certainly like to thank Chairman PAUL RYAN of the Ways and Means Committee and his staff for working to bring this important bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 16, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, I am writing with respect to H.R. 998, the ''Preclearance Authorization Act of 2015.'' As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 998 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I agree to waive consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration of H.R. 998 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. RYAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2015.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RYAN, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 998, the ''Preclearance Authorization Act of 2015.'' I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Ways and Means will forego consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration on this bill at this time, the Committee on Ways and Means does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Ways and Means for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 998, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2015.

This bipartisan bill would authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations with 180 days' prior notification and certification to Congress that certain specified conditions exist.

These conditions include that there are Homeland Security benefits for establishment of the preclearance location, a U.S. air carrier service serves the location, and establishment of the location will not significantly increase customs processing wait times in the United States.

The bill would require all countries with preclearance locations to routinely submit information about lost and stolen passports of their citizens to INTERPOL's stolen and lost travel document database or make such information available to the U.S. through other means.

H.R. 998 is intended to address many of the shortcomings in DHS' deployment of preclearance to Abu Dhabi last year and ensure that Congress receives appropriate notice prior to future expansion of the program to new locations.

Similar legislation was passed by the House under suspension of the rules in July 2014, but no action was taken by the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 998, sending it to the Senate for consideration in the 114th Congress.

H.R. 998 will help ensure that expansion of the Department of Homeland Security's preclearance program enhances our Nation's security, facilitates legitimate travel to the United States, and does not disadvantage domestic air carriers or United States ports of entry.

I thank Congresswoman MILLER, the chairman of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, for all of her efforts in bringing all these bills forward and for her strong bipartisan leadership.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER from Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to again indicate that these are bipartisan bills, the Homeland Security Committee bills that are coming forward on the floor.

I really have appreciated the opportunity and look forward to continuing to work with my ranking member, Mr. VELA, shoulder to shoulder on so many of these important issues before our country today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would once again urge my colleagues to support this very strong bipartisan piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 998, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVED SECURITY VETTING FOR AVIATION WORKERS ACT OF 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2750) to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, streamline transportation security regulations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2750

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Improved Security Vetting for Aviation Workers Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. AVIATION SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XVI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 561 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 1601 the following new section:

''SEC. 1602. VETTING OF AVIATION WORKERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—By not later than December 31, 2015, the Administrator, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Policy of the Department, shall request from the Director of National Intelligence access to additional data from the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (TIDE) data and any or other terrorism-related information to improve the effectiveness of the Administration's credential vetting program for individuals with unescorted access to sensitive areas of airports.

''(b) SECURITY INSPECTION.—By not later than December 31, 2015, the Administrator

shall issue guidance for Transportation Security Inspectors to annually review airport badging office procedures for applicants seeking access to sensitive areas of airports. Such guidance shall include a comprehensive review of applicants' Criminal History Records Check (CHRC) and work authorization documentation during the course of an inspection.

''(c) INFORMATION SHARING.—By not later than December 31, 2015, the Administrator may conduct a pilot program of the Rap Back Service, in coordination with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to determine the feasibility of full implementation of a service through which the Administrator would be notified of a change in status of an individual holding a valid credential granting unescorted access to sensitive areas of airports across eligible Administration-regulated populations.

''(d) PROCEDURES.—The pilot program under subsection (c) shall evaluate whether information can be narrowly tailored to ensure that the Administrator only receives notification of a change with respect to a disqualifying offense under the credential vetting program under subsection (a), as specified in 49 C.F.R. 1542.209, and in a manner that complies with current regulations for fingerprint-based criminal history records checks. The pilot program shall be carried out in a manner so as to ensure that, in the event that notification is made through the Rap Back Service of a change but a determination of arrest status or conviction is in question, the matter will be handled in a manner that is consistent with current regulations. The pilot program shall also be carried out in a manner that is consistent with current regulations governing an investigation of arrest status, correction of Federal Bureau of Investigation records and notification of disqualification, and corrective action by the individual who is the subject of an inquiry.

''(e) DETERMINATION AND SUBMISSION.—If the Administrator determines that full implementation of the Rap Back Service is feasible and can be carried out in a manner that is consistent with current regulations for fingerprint-based criminal history checks, including the rights of individuals seeking credentials, the Administrator shall submit such determination, in writing, to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, together with information on the costs associated with such implementation, including the costs incurred by the private sector. In preparing this determination, the Administrator shall consult with the Chief Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Officer of the Department to ensure that protocols are in place to align the period of retention of personally identifiable information and biometric information, including fingerprints, in the Rap Back Service with the period in which the individual who is the subject of an inquiry has a valid credential.

''(f) CREDENTIAL SECURITY.—By not later than September 30, 2015, the Administrator shall issue guidance to airports mandating that all federalized airport badging authorities place an expiration date on airport credentials commensurate with the period of time during which an individual is lawfully authorized to work in the United States.

''(g) AVIATION WORKER LAWFUL STATUS.—By not later than December 31, 2015, the Administrator shall review the denial of credentials due to issues associated with determining an applicant's lawful status in order to identify airports with specific weaknesses and shall coordinate with such airports to mutually address such weaknesses, as appropriate.

''(h) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the determinations and reviews required under this section, the Administrator shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the results of such determinations and reviews.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1601 the following new item:

''Sec. 1602. Vetting of aviation workers.''.

SEC. 3. STATUS UPDATE ON RAP BACK SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the status of plans to conduct a pilot program in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Rap Back Service in accordance with subsection (c) of section 1602 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act. The report shall include details on the business, technical, and resource requirements for the Transportation Security Administration and pilot program participants, and provide a timeline and goals for the pilot program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today we will consider four bipartisan bills that address security vulnerabilities and improvements to the Transportation Security Administration.

I am proud of the bipartisan work this subcommittee has done and will continue to do to address the issue. I would like to thank Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON of the Homeland Security Committee, as well as my colleague, Ranking Member RICE, from the Subcommittee on Transportation Security for their leadership.

These four bills being on the floor today demonstrate that, when we work together, we can get things done. I look forward to continuing to work together on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 2750, the Improved Security Vetting for Aviation Workers Act of 2015.

In June of this year, the Department of Homeland Security inspector general released a report that found a stunning 73 aviation workers that had possible ties to terrorism.

The findings of this report were indeed alarming, and 14 years after 9/11 findings like this are simply unacceptable.

This vital piece of bipartisan legislation will strengthen the vetting of these workers, close these security gaps, and ensure the safety and security of our Nation's aviation system.

The inspector general's June report found that TSA does not have access to all the data it may need to thoroughly check an aviation worker's potential ties to terrorism.

However, what is even more alarming is that a memo was sent to the TSA Administrator noting the need for additional information and TSA has still yet to resolve this gap.

The report also found that airports do not match the expiration date of an employee's credential to the expiration of their legal work authorization in the United States.

□ 1630

Again, while TSA stated they are working to resolve this issue by the end of the year, it raises serious concern that this gap exists in the first place. That is why this legislation is so critical, in order to guarantee that TSA addresses these known vulnerabilities.

Since the start of this Congress, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security of the Committee on Homeland Security, I have actively examined a number of alarming aspects related to TSA's operations, policies, and procedures. Through hearings, oversight inquiries, and legislation, I have been working to get to the bottom of these issues and raise awareness of the urgent need to fix them.

Unfortunately, these findings by the inspector general are not an anomaly. In May, the inspector general released a report that found that TSA did not have the appropriate controls in place to ensure that screening equipment has necessary maintenance work performed, an issue that Miss RICE's bill, H.R. 2770, addresses.

Last month, news outlets reported test results showing that screeners failed to detect prohibited threat items 96 percent of the time—96 percent.

These more recent findings come on the heels of revelations earlier this year of security breaches by employees at major airports across this country involving a nationwide gun smuggling ring and an employee of the FAA bypassing security and flying with a loaded firearm using his SIDA badge, and this month, four airport workers from Dallas were arrested for exploiting their access to aircraft to smuggle what they believed to be cocaine and other drugs.

All of these findings individually are concerning and, in the aggregate, shake public's confidence and only further display the need for this legislation.

Aviation workers are supposed to be thoroughly vetted due to their continuing access to sensitive areas of airports and the fact that they hold a position of trust within the transportation system. However, the findings by the inspector general and the dozens of arrests of aviation workers this year demonstrate that the status quo is not working.

The insider threat is the hardest threat to combat, and while this bill will not eliminate this threat, H.R. 2750 will indeed give TSA and the airports the ability to more thoroughly vet these employees and have a better understanding of whom we are granting secured access to.

The reality is that, in this post-9/11 world, the terrorist threat is metastasizing; and we, as a Nation, must remain responsive to any holes in the security of our transportation systems and ensure that protocols keep place with the ever-evolving threat landscape.

Improving the vetting of the aviation workers who have access to sensitive areas of airports can help close another backdoor vulnerability at our Nation's airports.

I would like to thank Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member RICE, Congresswoman MCSALLY, Congressman KEATING, and Congressman PAYNE for joining me as cosponsors of this bill. I urge my other colleagues to join me in supporting this critical piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2750, the Improved Security Vetting for Aviation Workers Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, a recent review by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general found that, although TSA's multilayered process for vetting airport workers is generally effective, there were instances where the process did not detect airport workers with potential links to terrorism.

In total, the inspector general identified 73 aviation workers with possible links to terrorism after running data against the so-called TIDE database, which is maintained by the National Counterterrorism Center.

TSA does not have access to this database under current interagency watch listing policies. Chairman KATKO introduced H.R. 2750 to rectify this situation, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bipartisan bill.

H.R. 2750 will put TSA on a path to accessing terrorism-related data in order to more effectively vet employees who work in our Nation's airports. In addition, this bill will require TSA to conduct an annual review of the procedures for issuing security credentials to employees seeking to work in highly sensitive, secure areas of our airports.

Lastly, under H.R. 2750, TSA is authorized to pilot the FBI's Rap Back Service, which provides near real-time information about changes in an airport worker's criminal history. The possibility of someone with ties to terrorism getting a job in an American airport is a very real threat, one of many that we live with every day and one that we must do everything in our power to prevent. H.R. 2750 will help neutralize that threat. I urge my colleagues to give it their full support.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, together with Chairman KATKO, I am proud of the work that we have done on the Subcommittee on Transportation Security to address this and other pressing transportation security issues within TSA in a constructive, bipartisan way.

The four bipartisan TSA bills that we are considering today are a testament to that effort and to what we can accomplish when we work together to solve real problems. I hope that we will continue to make progress together, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2750.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this strong, bipartisan piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2750, the Improved Security Vetting for Aviation Workers Act, which directs the Transportation Security Administrator to annually review airport badging office procedures for applicants seeking access to sensitive areas of airports.

I commend the bipartisan work of Chairman MCSALLY and Ranking Member PAYNE for their work on this bill.

The bill would direct the Transportation Security Administrator to coordinate with the Secretary of Homeland Security and consult with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct a pilot program of the Rap Back Service in preparation for possible full implementation.

The Administrator is further directed to determine the lawful status of aviation workers in order to identify airports with specific weaknesses.

The Administrator will brief the House Committees on Homeland Security and Transportation and Infrastructure as well as the Senate Committees on Homeland Security and Government Affairs and Commerce, Science, and Transportation on the results of the determinations and reviews.

This is a good step forward in support of security at our nation's airports.

As the Committee charged with the responsibility of improving security at our nation's airports this forward looking bill will allow a pilot program to determine if there are better resources for assuring the security of the traveling public.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 2750.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2750, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KEEPING OUR TRAVELERS SAFE AND SECURE ACT

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2770) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain maintenance of security-related technology at airports, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2770

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Keeping our Travelers Safe and Secure Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration has stated that the maintenance of security-related technology such as x-rays, explosive trace detection systems, explosive detection systems, liquid scanners, and enhanced walk-through metal detectors, is central to the execution of Transportation Security Administration's mission to protect United States transportation systems.

(2) Preventive and corrective maintenance is essential to ensuring and extending the service lives of security-related technology.

(3) In May 2015, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, reporting on the results of a performance audit conducted between December 2013 and November 2014, concluded that because the Transportation Security Administration did not properly manage the maintenance of its security-related technology deployed to airports, it cannot be assured that routine preventive maintenance is performed or that equipment is repaired and ready for operational use.

(4) Specifically, the Inspector General found that the Transportation Security Administration did not issue adequate policies and procedures to document, track, and maintain preventive maintenance actions at the airport level and oversight of contractor-performed maintenance needed to be strengthened.

(5) According to the Inspector General, if the equipment is not fully operational, the Transportation Security Administration may have to use other screening measures that may be less effective at detecting dangerous items, thereby potentially jeopardizing passenger safety and security.

SEC. 3. MAINTENANCE OF SECURITY-RELATED TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XVI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 561 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''Subtitle C—Maintenance of Security-Related Technology

''SEC. 1621. MAINTENANCE VALIDATION AND OVERSIGHT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subtitle, the Administrator shall develop and

implement a preventive maintenance validation process for security-related technology deployed to airports.

''(b) MAINTENANCE BY ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL AT AIRPORTS.—For maintenance to be carried out by Administration personnel at airports, the process referred to in subsection (a) shall include the following:

''(1) Guidance to Administration personnel, equipment maintenance technicians, and other personnel at airports specifying how to conduct and document preventive maintenance actions.

''(2) Mechanisms for the Administrator to verify compliance with the guidance issued pursuant to paragraph (1).

''(c) MAINTENANCE BY CONTRACTORS AT AIRPORTS.—For maintenance to be carried out by a contractor at airports, the process referred to in subsection (a) shall require the following:

''(1) Provision of monthly preventive maintenance schedules to appropriate Administration personnel at each airport that includes information on each action to be completed by a contractor.

''(2) Notification to appropriate Administration personnel at each airport when maintenance action is completed by a contractor.

''(3) A process for independent validation by a third party of contractor maintenance.

''(d) PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—The Administrator shall require maintenance contracts for security-related technology deployed to airports to include penalties for noncompliance when it is determined that either preventive or corrective maintenance has not been completed according to contractual requirements and manufacturers' specifications.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1616 the following:

''Subtitle C—Maintenance of Security-Related Technology

''Sec. 1621. Maintenance validation and oversight.''.

SEC. 4. INSPECTOR GENERAL ASSESSMENT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall assess implementation of the requirements under this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and provide findings and recommendations with respect to the provision of training to Administration personnel, equipment maintenance technicians, and other personnel under section 1621 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by section 3 of this Act) and the availability and utilization of equipment maintenance technicians employed by the Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2770, the Keeping Our Travelers Safe and Secure Act, sponsored by my colleague, Miss RICE. This legislation will strengthen TSA's management of its screening equipment maintenance contracts and related maintenance activities.

The Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General released a report in May that found that TSA is not properly managing the maintenance of its critical airport screening equipment. Because TSA does not adequately oversee this equipment, it cannot be assured that the routine preventive maintenance is performed or that equipment is repaired and ready for operational use.

This bill codifies the three recommendations made by the IG, all of which TSA concurred with. I am pleased to join Miss RICE; Mr. THOMPSON; my fellow New York delegation members Mr. KING, Mr. DONOVAN, and Mr. HIGGINS; along with Mr. PAYNE; Mr. KEATING; and Mr. RICHMOND as cosponsors of this important legislation.

I urge my other colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2770.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 2770, the Keeping Our Travelers Safe and Secure Act.

Mr. Speaker, last May, the Department of Homeland Security inspector general released a report with a blunt and revealing title: ''The Transportation Security Administration Does Not Properly Manage Its Airport Screening Equipment Maintenance Program.''

The report revealed that TSA lacks strict policies and procedures for maintaining critical screening technology, including x-ray machines and explosive detection equipment. The consequences of this deficiency could be severe.

First, as the inspector general's report noted, the lack of regular maintenance reduces the life of screening equipment, which means TSA would have to incur the cost of new equipment. That is a problem for American taxpayers.

Even more importantly, the inspector general also noted that, if screening equipment becomes less than fully operational, TSA will be forced to rely on alternative screening measures that may not be as effective at detecting dangerous items. That creates serious risks for passengers, risks that we can and must eliminate.

As threats to our homeland evolve, particularly threats to our commercial aviation sector, we cannot afford to be complacent about maintaining screening equipment.

This legislation, which I introduced with Ranking Member THOMPSON, Chairman KATKO, and Representative PAYNE, requires TSA to get serious about maintaining security-related technology in our Nation's airports.

Specifically, it requires TSA, within 180 days of enactment, to develop and implement a comprehensive preventive maintenance validation process. This process must include strict maintenance schedules, clear guidance for TSA personnel and contractors on how to conduct and document maintenance actions, mechanisms to ensure compliance, and penalties for noncompliance.

These measures are common sense. This is a threat that we can neutralize. I urge my colleagues to do so by supporting this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank members of the Committee on Homeland Security for supporting this legislation. There was truly a constructive bipartisan effort to make this legislation what it is today, and because of it, the commercial aviation sector will be more secure.

I once again urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation. I thank Chairman KATKO for his support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this strong, bipartisan piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support to H.R. 2770, the ''Keeping Our Travelers Safe and Secure Act of 2015'', which would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require improvements in the maintenance of security-related technology located at airports.

I commend my colleague's bill, which would outline specific requirements and procedures that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) must follow in maintaining security-related technology deployed at airports.

I strongly support the measures that would be implemented in this bill in light of the Homeland Security Department's Inspector General Examination of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA's) airport screening equipment maintenance program, which determined that adequate policies and procedures had not been implemented.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee and former chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I strongly support measures to improve aviation security.

The Inspector General, report focused on concerns in the security technologies maintenance processes of our airports.

The report said that TSA did not have sufficient policies to oversee whether routine preventative maintenance was accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, in my hometown of Houston, nearly 40 million passengers traveled through Bush International Airport (IAH) and an additional 10 million traveled through William P. Hobby (HOU).

This makes my city one of the busiest traveled cities in the country, and as TSA is the first line of defense in safeguarding transportation throughout the nation, we as a Congress should make sure we do all we can to support their needs.

This bill will ensure that these imperative steps in the upkeep of TSA equipment are not overlooked any more, as the agency must provide a monthly preventive maintenance schedule to appropriate airport personnel, streamlining the communication process amongst contractors and the airports themselves.

Also, this bill requires that the TSA must impose penalties for noncompliance when preventative and/or corrective maintenance does not meet contractual requirements or manufacturer specifications.

Mr. Speaker, we must provide the guidance and tools needed by the TSA to ensure the safety of the millions that travel through our nation's airports.

H.R. 2770, the "Keeping Our Travelers Safe and Secure Act of 2015" is a positive step forward in handling the issues raised by the Inspector General's report on our country's airports security systems.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in support of H.R. 2770.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2770, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TSA PRECHECK EXPANSION ACT

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2843) to require certain improvements in the Transportation Security Administration's PreCheck expedited screening program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2843

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''TSA PreCheck Expansion Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) TSA.—The term ''TSA'' means the Transportation Security Administration.

SEC. 3. ENROLLMENT EXPANSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall publish PreCheck application enrollment standards to add multiple private sector application capabilities for the TSA PreCheck program to increase the public's enrollment access to such program, including standards that allow the use of secure technologies, including online enrollment, kiosks, tablets, or staffed laptop stations at which individuals can apply for entry into such program.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Upon publication of the PreCheck program application enrollment standards pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

(1) coordinate with interested parties to deploy TSA-approved ready-to-market private sector solutions that meet the TSA PreCheck application enrollment standards described in paragraph (1), make available additional PreCheck enrollment capabilities, and offer secure online and mobile enrollment opportunities;

(2) partner with the private sector to collect biographic and biometric identification information via kiosks, mobile devices, or other mobile enrollment platforms to reduce the number of instances in which passengers need to travel to enrollment centers;

(3) ensure that the kiosks, mobile devices, or other mobile enrollment platforms referred to in paragraph (3) are certified as secure and not vulnerable to data breaches;

(4) ensure that any biometric and biographic information is collected in a manner which is comparable with the National Institute of Standards and Technology standards and ensures privacy and data security protections, including that applicants' personally identifiable information is collected, retained, used, and shared in a manner consistent with section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as ''Privacy Act of 1974''), and agency regulations;

(5) ensure that an individual who wants to enroll in the PreCheck program and has started an application with a single identification verification at one location will be able to save such individual's application on any kiosk, personal computer, mobile device, or other mobile enrollment platform and be able to return within a reasonable time to submit a second identification verification; and

(6) ensure that any enrollment expansion using a private sector risk assessment instead of a fingerprint-based criminal history records check is determined, by the Secretary of Homeland Security, to be equivalent to a fingerprint-based criminal history records check conducted through the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(c) MARKETING OF PRECHECK PROGRAM.—Upon publication of PreCheck program application enrollment standards pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

(1) in accordance with the standards described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a), develop and implement—

(A) a process, including an associated timeframe, for approving private sector marketing of the TSA PreCheck program; and

(B) a strategy for partnering with the private sector to encourage enrollment in such program; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on any PreCheck fees collected in excess of the costs of administering such program, including recommendations for using such amounts to support marketing of such program under this subsection.

(d) IDENTITY VERIFICATION ENHANCEMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) coordinate with the heads of appropriate components of the Department to leverage Department-held data and technologies to verify the citizenship of individuals enrolling in the TSA PreCheck program; and

(2) partner with the private sector to use advanced biometrics and standards comparable with National Institute of Standards and Technology standards to facilitate enrollment in such program.

(e) PRECHECK LANE OPERATION.—The Administrator shall—

(1) ensure that TSA PreCheck screening lanes are open and available during peak and high-volume travel times at airports to individuals enrolled in the PreCheck program; and

(2) make every practicable effort to provide expedited screening at standard screening lanes during times when PreCheck screening lanes are closed to individuals enrolled in such program in order to maintain operational efficiency.

(f) VETTING FOR PRECHECK PARTICIPANTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall initiate an assessment of the security vulnerabilities in the vetting process for the PreCheck program that includes an evaluation of whether subjecting PreCheck participants to recurrent fingerprint-based criminal history records checks, in addition to recurrent checks against the terrorist watchlist, could be done in a cost-effective manner to strengthen the security of the PreCheck program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2843, the TSA PreCheck Expansion Act. This piece of legislation serves as an important driving force to advance risk-based security and better secure our Nation's aviation sector.

TSA's PreCheck program, which grants expedited security screening to passengers at airports nationwide, has been an incredibly popular tool used by the Agency to improve the traveling public's airport screening experience, while moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach to security screening by identifying trusted travelers.

Risk-based security hinges on the ability to deploy our resources on those passengers whom we have not thoroughly vetted. However, the effectiveness and integrity of this program depends on TSA's ability to better market this program and increase passenger enrollment.

As the Agency has become overly dependent on alternate methods of expedited screening, such as managed inclusion, a problem addressed by Ranking Member THOMPSON's bill, which I cosponsored, H.R. 2127, TSA has become ineffective in prioritizing enrollment and partnering with the private sector.

Only the level of innovation found in the private sector will be able to assist TSA in driving continued enrollment in PreCheck. That being said, it is important that any expansion of the PreCheck program be conducted in a secure and responsible manner, which ensures the public's security and privacy.

This bill before the Congress right now does just that. Specifically, this

legislation directs TSA to partner with the private sector to find technological solutions for expanding enrollment in PreCheck and requires the Agency to develop a comprehensive marketing strategy for PreCheck.

Additionally, H.R. 2843 mandates that the Administrator coordinate with other Department of Homeland Security components to leverage existing data and technologies while also encouraging TSA to develop alternative recurrent vetting capabilities for those enrolled in PreCheck in order to maintain the program's security effectiveness.

□ 1645

Every day, TSA screens 2 million passengers. By expanding known traveler programs such as PreCheck, we can ensure that TSA is focusing its resources on those passengers who are unknown and therefore pose a greater risk.

I would like to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Congressman ROGERS for joining me as cosponsors of this important piece of legislation. I urge my other colleagues to do the same, and I look forward to continuing our efforts to expand PreCheck in a secure and effective manner.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2843, the TSA PreCheck Expansion Act.

A decade after Congress directed the establishment of a trusted passenger program, TSA announced its PreCheck pilot program in 2011. Initially, PreCheck participants were frequent flyers of major airlines, Active Duty military members, and participants in other Department of Homeland Security known traveler programs.

Over the past 4 years, PreCheck participation has expanded significantly and now encompasses over 1 million Americans who submitted biographic and biometric information and paid a fee to participate in the program.

While I am pleased that TSA has reached the milestone of enrolling 1 million people, there are 650 million people who fly in the U.S. every year, and we must keep working to bring more of them into the program.

Enrolling in PreCheck is a win-win for passengers and for airport security. Passengers get the benefit of expedited screening, and we get the benefit of an expanded universe of passengers who have undergone extensive vetting and are known to be low risk, and that allows TSA to focus its limited resources on passengers who are unknown and may be higher risk.

We can expand PreCheck participation by streamlining the enrollment process to make it more convenient and more accessible. H.R. 2843 seeks to do just that by requiring enrollment standards to include secure technologies such as kiosks and tablets that can collect biographic and biometric information.

Additionally, this bills directs TSA to more aggressively market the PreCheck program. Getting the word out about the merits of PreCheck is vital to ensuring that the program continues to grow.

To keep Congress engaged in its progress, this bill requires that TSA report any fees in excess of administration costs.

This is also an opportunity for the private sector to work together with the Federal Government to expand PreCheck participation, and this partnership will continue to push the program in the right direction.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, Mr. Speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support this commonsense legislation, and I congratulate my partner on the Transportation Security Subcommittee, Chairman KATKO, for authoring it.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2843, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this strong, bipartisan piece of legislation. Miss RICE is absolutely correct: it is common sense. It is common sense that a program that has been with TSA for a while now and that has not been expanded on by TSA despite its popularity and it is common sense with respect to risk-based security that this should be passed. I urge passage of it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2843, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING EXPEDITED SCREENING ACT

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2127) to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to limit access to expedited airport security screening at an airport security checkpoint to participants of the PreCheck program and other known low-risk passengers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2127

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Securing Expedited Screening Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Aviation and Transportation Security Act (Public Law 107–71) authorized the Transportation Security Administration to ''establish requirements to implement trusted passenger programs and use available technologies to expedite the security screening of passengers who participate in such programs, thereby allowing security screening personnel to focus on those passengers who should be subject to more extensive screening.''.

(2) In October 2011, the Transportation Security Administration began piloting the PreCheck program in which a limited number of passengers who were participants in the frequent flyer programs of domestic air carriers were directed to special screening lanes for expedited security screening.

(3) In December 2013, the Transportation Security Administration opened the PreCheck program to eligible passengers who submit biographic and biometric information for a security risk assessment.

(4) Today, expedited security screening is provided to passengers who, in general, are members of populations identified by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration as presenting a low risk to aviation security, including members of populations known and vetted by the Administrator or through another Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler program, and to passengers who are selected by expedited screening on a case-by-case basis through the Transportation Security Administration's Managed Inclusion process and other procedures.

(5) According to the Transportation Security Administration, the Managed Inclusion process ''combines the use of multiple layers of security to indirectly conduct a real-time assessment of passengers'' through the use of Passenger Screening Canine teams, Behavior Detection Officers, Explosives Trace Detection (ETD) machines, and other activities.

(6) In December 2014, the Comptroller General of the United States concluded in a report entitled ''Rapid Growth in Expedited Passenger Screening Highlights Need to Plan Effective Security Assessments'' that ''it will be important for TSA to evaluate the security effectiveness of the Managed Inclusion process as a whole, to ensure that it is functioning as intended and that passengers are being screened at a level commensurate with their risk''.

(7) On March 16, 2015, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security released a report entitled ''Allegation of Granting Expedited Screening through TSA PreCheck Improperly'', in which the Inspector General determined that the Transportation Security Administration granted expedited security screening at a PreCheck security lane to a passenger who had served time in prison for felonies committed as a member of a domestic terrorist group and who was not a participant in the PreCheck program.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION; PRECHECK OPERATIONS MAINTAINED; ALTERNATE METHODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (d), not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall direct that access to expedited airport security screening at an

airport security checkpoint be limited to only the following:

(1) A passenger who voluntarily submits biographic and biometric information for a security risk assessment and whose application for the PreCheck program has been approved, or a passenger who is a participant in another trusted or registered traveler program of the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) A passenger traveling pursuant to section 44903 of title 49, United States Code (as established under the Risk-Based Security for Members of the Armed Forces Act (Public Law 112–86)), section 44927 of such title (as established under the Helping Heroes Fly Act (Public Law 113–27)), or section 44928 of such title (as established under the Honor Flight Act (Public Law 113–221)).

(3) A passenger who did not voluntarily submit biographic and biometric information for a security risk assessment but is a member of a population designated by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration as known and low-risk and who may be issued a unique, known traveler number by the Administrator determining that such passenger is a member of a category of travelers designated by the Administrator as known and low-risk.

(b) PRECHECK OPERATIONS MAINTAINED.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall ensure that expedited airport security screening remains available to passengers at or above the level that exists on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) MINORS AND SENIORS.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration may provide access to expedited airport security screening at an airport security checkpoint to a passenger who is—

(1) 75 years old or older; or

(2) 12 years old or under and who is traveling with a parent or guardian who is a participant in the PreCheck program.

(d) FREQUENT FLIERS.—If the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration determines that such is appropriate, the date specified in subsection (a) may be extended by up to one year to implement such subsection with respect to the population of passengers who did not voluntarily submit biographic and biometric information for security risk assessments but who nevertheless receive expedited airport security screening because such passengers are designated as frequent fliers by air carriers. If the Administrator uses the authority provided by this subsection, the Administrator shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of such phased-in implementation.

(e) ALTERNATE METHODS.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration may provide access to expedited airport security screening to additional passengers pursuant to an alternate method upon the submission to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of an independent assessment of the security effectiveness of such alternate method that is conducted by an independent entity that determines that such alternate method is designed to—

(1) reliably and effectively identify passengers who likely pose a low risk to the United States aviation system;

(2) mitigate the likelihood that a passenger who may pose a security threat to the United States aviation system is selected for expedited security screening; and

(3) address known and evolving security risks to the United States aviation system.

(f) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall provide to the entity conducting the independent assessment under subsection (c) effectiveness testing results that are consistent with established evaluation design practices, as identified by the Comptroller General of the United States.

SEC. 4. REPORTING.

Not later than three months after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the percentage of all passengers who are provided expedited security screening, and of such passengers so provided, the percentage who are participants in the PreCheck program (who have voluntarily submitted biographic and biometric information for security risk assessments), the percentage who are participants in another trusted traveler program of the Department of Homeland Security, the percentage who are participants in the PreCheck program due to the Administrator's issuance of known traveler numbers, and for the remaining percentage of passengers granted access to expedited security screening in PreCheck security lanes, information on the percentages attributable to each alternative method utilized by the Transportation Security Administration to direct passengers to expedited airport security screening at PreCheck security lanes.

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to—

(1) authorize or direct the Administrator of the Transportation Administration to reduce or limit the availability of expedited security screening at an airport; or

(2) limit the authority of the Administrator to use technologies and systems, including passenger screening canines and explosives trace detection, as a part of security screening operations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2127, the Securing Expedited Screening Act. This important piece of legislation directs TSA to suspend the use of alternative methods for granting passengers access to PreCheck expedited screening unless the agency can prove the security effectiveness of such methods.

Specifically, this bill requires that expedited screening be limited to passengers who have successfully enrolled in the PreCheck program or who are eligible for PreCheck by being part of an already identified low-risk population.

Managed Inclusion is intended to conduct a ''real-time'' threat assessment to identify passengers who are eligible for TSA PreCheck on a flight-by-flight basis through the use of already present layers of security at the airports. However, travelers who experience expedited screening through Managed Inclusion are not subject to a criminal history background check, have not paid for TSA PreCheck—unlike other passengers—are often unaware of the reason they are receiving expedited screening, and are generally not encouraged to enroll in TSA PreCheck during the experience.

While Managed Inclusion may help reduce wait times and increase utilization of TSA PreCheck lanes, it has not been tested or proven to improve the experience of travelers or, more importantly, reduce the security risks to aviation.

On the contrary, passengers who go through the TSA PreCheck enrollment process and pay $85 for expedited screening are not seeing the benefits that were promised to them. This is because passengers who did not enroll, have not submitted to a background check, and are unfamiliar with TSA PreCheck are being ushered into those expedited screening lanes.

This bill, along with a piece of legislation that I introduced, H.R. 2843, the TSA PreCheck Expansion Act, will ensure that we are providing expedited screening in a manner that is both deliberate and secure, and that we are expanding the known traveler population so that we can focus our resources on unknown travelers.

I am very pleased to join my colleagues Mr. THOMPSON and Miss RICE as a cosponsor of this important legislation. I urge my other colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2127, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2127, the Securing Expedited Screening Act.

The Transportation Security Administration is charged with the great responsibility of keeping commercial aviation passengers safe and keeping criminals, terrorists, and dangerous objects off of flights. They do so using limited resources, relying on a risk-based approach that focuses those resources on the passengers about whom we know the least. The PreCheck program is a key element of this approach, granting expedited screening to trusted or ''known'' passengers who have undergone an extensive vetting process.

But even as TSA expanded the PreCheck program, it was also granting expedited screening to other supposedly ''low-risk'' passengers through the Managed Inclusion process—passengers who hadn't gone through the PreCheck application process, hadn't been vetted, and were not known to be low risk.

Numerous classified reports from both the Department of Homeland Security inspector general and the Government Accountability Office have detailed the security risks created by the Managed Inclusion process. We must take action to eliminate this vulnerability, and we can do so by passing H.R. 2127.

Ranking Member THOMPSON's bipartisan legislation will require TSA to limit expedited screening to the population for which it was intended: those travelers who have been vetted and are known to be low risk.

I urge my colleagues to join Ranking Member THOMPSON, Chairman KATKO, and me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would like to again thank Members for supporting this legislation. H.R. 2127 will eliminate a significant gap in our aviation security and ensure that each passenger who boards a commercial flight receives the appropriate level of screening.

I urge all my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this strong, bipartisan piece of legislation.

H.R. 2843, which we just spoke about, and H.R. 2127, this bill, work side by side with each other, and it is a good example of the bipartisan nature which permeates this committee. One bill deals with the expansion of PreCheck; the other one deals with the constriction on the other side of PreCheck, and that is the Managed Inclusion, which none of us think is a good idea, long term, for security purposes.

I am proud to be part of this legislation. I am proud of the bipartisan work we are doing on this committee, and I look forward to much more production moving forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2127, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST RESPONDER ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS ACT

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1300) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1300

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act''.

SEC. 2. PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.

(a) ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 526. ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS.

''(a) PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.—For the purpose of domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall establish a program to provide anthrax vaccines from the strategic national stockpile under section 319F–2(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6b(a)) that will be nearing the end of their labeled dates of use at the time such vaccines are to be administered to emergency response providers who are at high risk of exposure to anthrax and who voluntarily consent to such administration, and shall—

''(1) establish any necessary logistical and tracking systems to facilitate making such vaccines so available;

''(2) distribute disclosures regarding associated benefits and risks to end users; and

''(3) conduct outreach to educate emergency response providers about the voluntary program.

''(b) THREAT ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) support homeland security-focused risk analysis and risk assessments of the threats posed by anthrax from an act of terror;

''(2) leverage existing and emerging homeland security intelligence capabilities and structures to enhance prevention, protection, response, and recovery efforts with respect to an anthrax terror attack; and

''(3) share information and provide tailored analytical support on threats posed by anthrax to State, local, and tribal authorities, as well as other national biosecurity and biodefense stakeholders.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting at the end of the items relating to title V the following new item:

''Sec. 526. Anthrax preparedness.''.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pre-event vaccination program authorized in section 526(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a pilot program to provide anthrax vaccines to emergency response providers as so authorized. The duration of the pilot program shall be 24 months from the date the initial vaccines are administered to participants.

(2) PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS.—By not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and prior to implementing the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(A) establish a communication platform for the pilot program;

(B) establish education and training modules for the pilot program;

(C) conduct economic analysis of the pilot program; and

(D) create a logistical platform for the anthrax vaccine request process under the pilot program.

(3) LOCATION.—In carrying out the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall select emergency response providers based in at least two States for participation in the pilot program.

(4) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to each emergency response provider who participates in the pilot program under this subsection disclosures and educational materials regarding the associated benefits and risks of any vaccine provided under the pilot program and of exposure to anthrax.

(5) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until one year after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the progress and results of the pilot program, including the percentage of eligible emergency response providers, as determined by each pilot location, that volunteer to participate, the degree to which participants obtain necessary vaccinations, as appropriate, and recommendations to improve initial and recurrent participation in the pilot program. The report shall include a plan under which the Secretary plans to continue the program to provide vaccines to emergency response providers under section 526(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a).

(6) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall begin implementing the pilot program under this subsection by not later than the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1300, the First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act, which I introduced along with my good friend and colleague from New Jersey, BILL PASCRELL. This important, bipartisan legislation will ensure that emergency response providers have access to preevent anthrax vaccines.

An anthrax attack is a serious mass casualty threat. Our national response

capability to a wide-area anthrax attack would be greatly enhanced by having prevaccinated responders able to deploy immediately and confidently, knowing that they have been afforded as much protection as possible.

To achieve that goal, this legislation establishes a preevent anthrax vaccination program to provide surplus anthrax vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile to emergency response providers on a voluntary basis. In advance of the full vaccination program, the bill directs the Secretary of DHS to carry out a pilot program. Both the preevent vaccination program and the pilot program are required to have robust communication, education, and training for program participants.

The bill requires a report on the progress of the pilot and directs the Department of Homeland Security to conduct risk assessments regarding anthrax terror attacks and to share threat information with State and local law enforcement.

The Department has been working for over 3 years on establishing a preevent vaccination effort for first responders, but the project has been continually stalled. I am encouraged that DHS has hired a vaccination expert from the Department of Defense to take over the effort, and I believe that the mandates in this legislation will ensure that the pilot program moves forward.

I would like to thank Committee on Homeland Security Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON, along with Chairman MCSALLY and Ranking Member DON PAYNE of the committee's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications for their leadership on this issue and their work to advance this bill to the floor. I also want to thank Homeland Security Committee staff Kerry Kinirons, Kate Nichols, and Rosanna Muno.

And this is significant, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Chairman UPTON and his staff at Energy and Commerce, Carly McWilliams and Karen Christian, for working with us on this bill. This bill is a great example of how committees can and should work together to advance commonsense legislation and not get involved in turf battles.

I will include the letters exchanged by Chairman MCCAUL and Chairman UPTON on H.R. 1300 in the RECORD.

H.R. 1300 has 50 bipartisan cosponsors and is supported by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of EMS Chiefs, and the Alliance for Biosecurity.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, which will help to ''protect our protectors,'' and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write in regard to H.R. 1300, First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act, which was ordered to be reported by the Committee on Homeland Security on May 20, 2015. As you are aware, the bill also was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. I wanted to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo action on H.R. 1300 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is done with the understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered. In addition, the Committee reserves the right to seek conferees on H.R. 1300 and requests your support when such a request is made.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1300 and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, July 22, 2015.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy on Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1300, the ''First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act.'' I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forego consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration on this bill at this time, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Energy and Commerce for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

□ 1700

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 1300, the First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by commending my colleague from New York, my good friend, Mr. KING, for working to make sure we are prepared to respond to an event involving a weapon of mass destruction.

For nearly a decade, Mr. KING and Mr. PASCRELL have partnered to improve our ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to WMD incidents; and I am pleased to be here today to help advance part of that agenda.

As the Capitol Hill community witnessed just over a decade ago, even a relatively small-scale anthrax attack can be devastating. An anthrax attack on a larger scale would not only result in more sick people, but would also demand a larger response effort that could stretch our emergency response capabilities.

Although we typically think about our WMD policies at the national level, it is important to remember that the initial response to an anthrax event is local. We have an obligation to make sure that those who are called upon to respond to an anthrax attack can do so without jeopardizing their own health in the process.

As a member of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, I have heard from emergency responders about what they need to effectively respond to an anthrax attack.

I have also had conversations with first responders in my own district, and what I have heard repeatedly is that first responders need access to preevent vaccinations so that, if and when the time comes, they can respond swiftly without fear for their own health.

These are the men and women we will rely on in the event of a WMD incident, the men and women we will call on to risk their lives, as they do every day; and they deserve every layer of protection we can provide.

H.R. 1300 would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a program to provide surplus anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials to emergency response providers, on a voluntary basis, before an attack occurs.

This legislation has the support of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Emergency Medical Services Chiefs, and the Alliance for Biosecurity.

In my opinion, a program like this is long overdue, and I want to thank Mr. KING and Mr. PASCRELL for their leadership in working to make it a reality.

I urge my colleagues to support the First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my brother, PETER KING, we wouldn't be here except for you. We have talked about this thing for 10 years; more than that, PETER, through the chair, and we have insisted. I am proud to introduce this legislation with my friend, Congressman KING.

It is critical that first responders have access to stockpiled vaccines so that they can respond quickly and confidently in the event of a biological threat.

Just weeks ago, we were reminded of the grave danger that anthrax poses and the need for an effective response—a strategy—when live anthrax was mistakenly shipped to dozens of labs all over the place.

This is not a hypothetical danger, Mr. Speaker. Some of us remember when anthrax was mailed to some of our colleagues' offices in 2001. Several staffers were impacted. We shut down

the Longworth House Office Building to decontaminate it. Packages were sent to other locations. Twenty-two Americans were infected; 5 were killed, and here we are, 14 years later.

For over a decade, Congressman KING and I have been fighting to develop a comprehensive national strategy to counter the grave threat that weapons of mass destruction pose to our Nation.

According to the former chief medical officer and assistant secretary of the Office of Health Affairs at the Department of Homeland Security, Alexander Garza:

> A successful anthrax attack could potentially expose hundreds of thousands of people, cause illness, death, panic, economic losses . . . making this a weapon of mass disruption as well as destruction.

By passing this legislation, we will expand our national response capability by administering surpluses and expiring anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials to emergency first responders on a voluntary basis.

Making expiring anthrax vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile available to emergency first responders provides a cost-effective solution.

It is important that we pass this legislation. I want to thank all of those who made it possible to get here today; and hopefully, in a few weeks, when we get back, we will have a big WMD legislation on this floor.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers. If Miss RICE has no further speakers, I am prepared to close after she closes.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to protect the men and women we call on to protect the public when disaster strikes. H.R. 1300 is commonsense legislation. It will provide emergency responders with anthrax vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile that are approaching their expiration.

Certainly, our hope is that our emergency responders will never have to respond to an anthrax attack, but they deserve to know that, if that call ever does come, they can respond without fear for their own safety.

Once again, I would like to congratulate my colleagues from New York and New Jersey on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation. Let me emphasize the bipartisan nature of it.

BILL PASCRELL has been there from the start. He referenced the anthrax attacks here in the Capitol back in 2001. None of us who was here at that time will ever, ever forget that. That should have been a wakeup call then. Unfortunately, not enough action was taken. Now, finally, after all these years, we are taking this first major step.

I want to thank BILL PASCRELL for being there. I want to thank Miss RICE for the whole tone of the debate here this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1300, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

STATE WIDE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2206) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require recipients of State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to preserve and strengthen interoperable emergency communications capabilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2206

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''State Wide Interoperable Communications Enhancement Act'' or the ''SWIC Enhancement Act''.

SEC. 2. MINIMUM CONTENTS OF APPLICATION FOR CERTAIN HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 2004(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 605(b)) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(2) inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

''(B)(i) certification that the Governor of the State has designated a Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, including identification in such certification of the individual so designated, who shall be responsible for—

''(I) coordinating the daily operations of the State's interoperability efforts;

''(II) coordinating State interoperability and communications projects and grant applications for such projects;

''(III) establishing and maintaining working groups to develop and implement key interoperability initiatives; and

''(IV) coordinating and updating, as necessary, a Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan that specifies the current status of State efforts to enhance communications interoperability within the State, including progress, modifications, or setbacks, and future goals for communications interoperability among emergency response agencies in the State; or

''(ii) if a Statewide Interoperability Coordinator has not been designated in accordance with clause (i)—

''(I) certification that the State is performing in another manner the functions described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of such clause; and

''(II) identification in such certification of an individual who has been designated by the State as the primary point of contact for performance of such functions;''.

(b) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any grant for which an application was submitted under the State Homeland Security Grant Program before the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say at the outset, it is great to have two New Yorkers running a debate. It doesn't happen often that we run the House; so, KATHLEEN, let's take advantage of it while we can. Any motions you can think of we can make?

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2206, the State Wide Interoperable Communications Enhancement Act, which was introduced by the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE). This bill recognizes the important role played by Statewide Interoperability Coordinators, SWICs.

We have all witnessed the communications failures during the response to the September 11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina. Interoperability is vital during disaster response.

However, despite investing more than $5 billion in grant funding to enhance communications capability over the past 10 years, interoperability remains a challenge. To address this challenge, States have appointed SWICs to ensure emergency response providers in their States have the ability to communicate.

SWICs complete Statewide Interoperable Communications Plans, ensure grant investments are coordinated statewide, and oversee communications projects. Many SWICs also serve as the State point of contact to FirstNet for the design and construction of the Public Safety Broadband Network.

H.R. 2206 requires Governors to certify, as part of their applications for

State Homeland Security grant programs, that they have designated a person to serve as the SWIC or, if not, that the functions of a SWIC are being carried out in another manner.

The Committee on Homeland Security approved H.R. 2206 in May by a bipartisan voice vote. I urge Members to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 2206, the State Wide Interoperable Communications Enhancement Act.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to be here with my colleague and friend from New York. This legislation, introduced by Congressman DONALD PAYNE, will help prevent Federal grant dollars from being spent on communications equipment that will not advance the goal of interoperability.

After the September 11 attack, interoperable communications failures were identified as a factor that complicated first responders' efforts. In the immediate aftermath, Congress appropriated millions of dollars in grant funds to address national response capability gaps, including interoperable communications.

Unfortunately, millions of dollars were invested on interoperable communications equipment before State and local governments had developed the strategies, plans, and governance structures to ensure that the investments would actually advance their interoperability goals.

Nearly 10 years ago, when interoperability challenges plagued the Hurricane Katrina response, one of the major takeaways was that spending millions of dollars on the interoperability problem does not yield results unless there are mechanisms in place for coordination.

In response to that tough lesson, Congress, in 2006, authorized the creation of the Office of Emergency Communications within the Department of Homeland Security and tasked the office with developing a National Emergency Communications Plan.

The first plan, which was released in 2008, set as a milestone for every State the designation of a full-time Statewide Interoperability Coordinator. This was a major recommendation from first responders across the Nation.

States initially met the goal of appointing full-time SWICs, and we saw the benefits firsthand during the response to the Boston Marathon bombings.

In the years and months leading up to that day, the Massachusetts SWIC had engaged in significant planning activities and had coordinated with organizations at the Federal, State, and local levels to exercise the emergency communications capabilities.

As a result of the high performance of the emergency communications systems, lives were saved that day in Boston.

Due to recent budgetary pressures, however, the number of States that maintain dedicated full-time SWICs has dwindled. SWICs are charged with overseeing the daily operation of the State's interoperability efforts, coordinating interoperability and communications projects, maintaining governance structures, and implementing Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans.

H.R. 2206 seeks to maintain the governance structures and coordination activities that have helped guide interoperable communications investments since Hurricane Katrina.

Nationwide, over $13 billion of Federal money has been spent on developing robust interoperable communications capabilities, and the goal still has not been achieved.

But we have made progress, and we cannot fall backwards by losing the governance and coordination that ensures we are making sound investments in emergency communications.

H.R. 2206 requires that States, in some way, are overseeing emergency communications investments to ensure that the systems are interoperable.

On behalf of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Ranking Member PAYNE, I would like to thank full Committee Chairman MIKE MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, and Subcommittee Chairman MCSALLY for supporting this measure and for helping to bring it to the floor today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2206, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2206 will protect the progress we have made toward achieving nationwide interoperable emergency communications and prevent money from being wasted on investments that will not advance that goal.

SWICs play a critical role in coordinating emergency communications investments and policies at the State level, and it is important that this work continue.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Ranking Member PAYNE and Chairman MARTHA MCSALLY for their efforts on this.

I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2206, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2206, the State Wide Interoperable Communications Enhancement Act, which would establish a grant program to preserve and strengthen interoperable emergency communications capabilities for local and state first responders.

The bill requires a state to include in its application for State Homeland Security Grant Program funding a certification:

That the governor of the state has designated a Statewide Interoperability Coordinator; or

Indicating that the state is performing the functions of such a Coordinator in another manner and identifying the primary point of contact for performance of such functions.

The bill would establish the role of State Interoperability Coordinator as:

Overseeing the daily operations of the state's interoperability efforts;

Coordinating state interoperability and communications projects and grant applications for such projects;

Establishing and maintaining working groups to develop and implement key interoperability initiatives; and

Implementing and updating a Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan that specifies the current status of state efforts to enhance communications interoperability within the state, including future goals for communications interoperability among emergency response agencies in the state.

The bill would formalize the role of the State Wide Interoperability Coordinator to ensure that there was a single point of contact in each state.

The bill will assist in establishing a single point of contact for Statewide interoperability for state and local first responders; Second, the legislation is necessary to create a seamless level of communication between the Department of Homeland Security and states to ensure that communications regarding terrorist attacks, natural or manmade disasters are managed appropriately.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am well aware, as are many of my colleagues, of the essential and lifesaving role of communications during a crisis.

Because the tragedy of September 11, 2001, was compounded by communication failures among the brave first responders who entered the burning towers that comprised the World Trade Center it has been an imperative of the Homeland Security Committee to address first responder communication interoperability challenges.

The number of first responders lost on that single day was the greatest loss of first responders at any single event in U.S. History: 343 New York City Fire Department firefighters; 23 New York City Police Department Officers; 37 Port Authority Police Department officers, 15 EMTs and 3 court officers were casualties of the attacks.

The need for this bill authored by Congressman PAYNE is evident.

The City of Houston covers over a 1,000 square mile region in Southeast Texas. It has a night-time population of nearly two million people, which peaks with over three million daytime inhabitants.

The city of Houston's 9–1–1 Emergency Center manages nearly 9,000 emergency calls per day. The volume of emergency calls can easily double during times of inclement weather or special City social/sporting events like Hurricanes Ike in September 2008; and Katrina as well as Rita, which occurred in September and October of 2005.

Annually, one out of every ten citizens uses EMS.

There are over 200,000 EMS incidents involving over 225,000 patients or potential patients annually. On the average, EMS responds to a citizen every 3 minutes. Each

EMS response is made by one of 88 City of Houston EMS vehicles.

In 2013, the City of Houston's fire Department lost Captain EMT Matthew Renaud, Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee, Firefighter EMT Robert Garner and Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan when they responded to a hotel fire.

Each member of the House of Representatives knows of the loss of a first responder who was going to the aid of those in harm's way.This bill will offer additional resources to the first responders of the Department of Homeland Security.

This bill will ensure that a critical communication element for our nation's first responders and the role of the Department of Homeland Security in providing them with support is addressed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H.R. 2206.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2206, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2499) to amend the Small Business Act to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs, to help create jobs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 4. BUSINESS LOANS PROGRAM.

(a) SECTION 7(a) FUNDING LEVELS.—The third proviso under the heading ''BUSINESS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT'' under the heading ''SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'' under title V of division E of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113–235; 128 Stat. 2371) is amended by striking ''$18,750,000,000'' and inserting ''$23,500,000,000''.

(b) LOAN LIMITATIONS.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''No financial assistance'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—No financial assistance''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) LIQUIDITY.—On and after October 1, 2015, the Administrator may not guarantee a loan under this subsection if the lender determines that the borrower is unable to obtain credit elsewhere solely because the liquidity of the lender depends upon the guaranteed portion of the loan being sold on the secondary market.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) LENDING LIMITS OF LENDERS.—On and after October 1, 2015, the Administrator may not guarantee a loan under this subsection if the sole purpose for requesting the guarantee is to allow the lender to exceed the legal lending limit of the lender.''.

(c) REPORTING.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

(B) the term ''business loan'' means a loan made or guaranteed under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a));

(C) the term ''cancellation'' means that the Administrator approves a proposed business loan, but the prospective borrower determines not to take the business loan; and

(D) the term ''net dollar amount of business loans'' means the difference between the total dollar amount of business loans and the total dollar amount of cancellations.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—During the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a quarterly report regarding the loan programs carried out under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), which shall include—

(A) for the fiscal year during which the report is submitted and the 3 fiscal years before such fiscal year—

(i) the weekly total dollar amount of business loans;

(ii) the weekly total dollar amount of cancellations;

(iii) the weekly net dollar amount of business loans—

(I) for all business loans; and

(II) for each category of loan amount described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 7(a)(18) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(18));

(B) for the fiscal year during which the report is submitted—

(i) the amount of remaining authority for business loans, in dollar amount and as a percentage; and

(ii) estimates of the date on which the net dollar amount of business loans will reach the maximum for such business loans based on daily net lending volume and extrapolations based on year to date net lending volume, quarterly net lending volume, and quarterly growth trends;

(C) the number of early defaults (as determined by the Administrator) during the quarter covered by the report;

(D) the total amount paid by borrowers in early default during the quarter covered by the report, as of the time of purchase of the guarantee;

(E) the number of borrowers in early default that are franchisees;

(F) the total amount of guarantees purchased by the Administrator during the quarter covered by the report; and

(G) a description of the actions the Administrator is taking to combat early defaults administratively and any legislative action the Administrator recommends to address early defaults.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their legislative remarks and include extraneous materials in the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Two weeks ago, on July 13, this Chamber overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2499. This legislation provides greater assistance to our veteran entrepreneurs by making Small Business Administration, SBA, loans more affordable for veterans.

It permanently waives the up-front fee charged by the SBA to borrowers through the agency's 7(a) Express loan program without imposing any additional costs on taxpayers.

As my colleagues are aware, the SBA's 7(a) loan guarantee program is vital for small businesses to get the capital needed for growth of the American economy. As the economic outlook begins to brighten, more small businesses than ever before are taking advantage of this program.

Despite a significant increase in demand over the past several months, Congress was not notified until June 25 that the program was dangerously close to its authorized lending authority of $18.75 billion and might surpass it prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Such eleventh hour notification makes it difficult for Congress to act. Yet, Congress is acting swiftly to help America's small businesses, businesses that no longer could get SBA-guaranteed loans as of noon on July 23, when the SBA reached its authorized limit.

I want to thank my counterparts in the other body for working quickly to resolve this matter and offering an amendment to H.R. 2499, the veterans bill.

This amendment ensures that the SBA will have sufficient authority to guarantee loans through the end of the fiscal year. This increase comes at no cost to the taxpayer. Let me repeat that. At no cost to the taxpayer.

That is because the fees paid by the users of the program—not taxpayers—cover the costs of the program. This is a win-win situation, as this will allow banks to continue offering 7(a) loans.

Further, this amendment also ensures that, from now on, Congress will be informed on a regular basis about the status of a loan program and lending authority limits.

This will ensure that Congress can address the situation in a timelier manner and inquire of the SBA what steps it might use administratively to ameliorate a situation in which the agency might exceed its lending authorization level.

The amendment ensures that we do not repeat the experience of the previous 2 years, where Congress at the eleventh hour had to scramble for a solution because it wasn't notified by the SBA of its problem until the last minute.

This is truly a time-sensitive issue that needs to be corrected today. Between noon and 2:30 on July 23, the

SBA stated that it had 315 new loans totaling $220 million waiting in the queue. These are small firms who need the money in hand now to grow their companies and create jobs.

I want to take the time to highlight that this legislation would not have come together without extraordinary bipartisan, bicameral efforts.

I would like to thank Senator VITTER, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, for his leadership on this issue.

He worked tirelessly over the past few weeks to develop a solution that would be acceptable to the Senate and to the House.

I would also like to thank Senators RISCH, SHAHEEN, PETERS, and COONS, who each cosponsored the amendment.

Further, on this side of the Capitol, I would be remiss if I did not mention the efforts of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), who will be speaking here soon, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) and their expertise and assistance in resolving this matter.

And I wanted to offer a special thanks to our committee's ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), for her insight and leadership.

In addition to offering the bill H.R. 3132, to increase the lending authority, she was steadfast in her efforts to repeatedly warn the SBA that continuing to issue 7(a) loan guarantees for the maximum amount allowed by statute, yet failing to take administrative action to manage loan guarantees as the SBA crept closer to its lending authority, could result in a cessation of the lending.

The ranking member and her staff were extremely helpful in bringing this matter to a resolution and are to be commended for helping to craft a strong, bipartisan product, which is what we are dealing with here today.

This legislation, as amended by the Senate, provides two critical items for the 7(a) program. It allows us to support veteran entrepreneurs for years to come at no cost by waiving fees, and it ensures that the program continues to run, since waiving fees on a program that can no longer offer loans doesn't help anyone. It is a smart, commonsense approach which passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

I urge my colleagues to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2499, as amended, by the Senate.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For the past 4 years, our Nation has faced economic headwinds, but was able to break through and strengthen considerably.

In that time, over 12 million jobs have been created, the stock market has come roaring back, and optimism in the small business sector has returned to prerecession levels.

As we all know, small businesses are the driving force in our Nation's economy, creating two out of three new jobs and producing roughly 50 percent of our GDP. In order to fulfill that role, they need capital.

One option is SBA's 7(a) Loan Program, which has been very popular over the past 2 years. In 2014, the program made over 52,000 loans, totaling $19 billion, one of its best years since 2007. SBA carried that momentum into 2015, growing another 20 percent overall, which brings us to today.

Due to this unexpected robust lending activity, SBA learned it will reach its $18.75 billion lending cap before the end of the year, cutting off thousands of borrowers.

The chairman is totally correct when he talks about the issue of SBA not notifying Congress in the proper time.

Last week I introduced H.R. 3132 to raise the cap to $23.5 billion, giving SBA over $4 billion in additional authority to provide capital to deserving small businesses. Unfortunately, the cap was reached on Thursday before we could get that bill to the floor.

Today's bill includes my language to raise the lending cap to $23.5 billion. It will mean a significant capital infusion into the economy.

With these types of loans flowing again, small companies will have more resources to expand their facilities, reinvest in their operations, and create jobs.

When a small manufacturer can access these loans, they can build additional warehouse space, creating both short-term and long-term employment opportunities.

Restaurants and retailers can use this capital to pay vendors, freeing up funding to keep employees on their payrolls, and potentially hire more workers.

This bill does require additional reporting requirements and other changes at SBA. While I would have liked to have seen a clean increase in the authorization level, we all recognize the critical role the 7(a) program plays. This compromise will turn the spigot back on, helping entrepreneurs grow and create jobs.

I want to thank Senators VITTER and SHAHEEN, Leader PELOSI, Ranking SERRANO, and especially Chairman CHABOT for working in a bipartisan manner to bring this bill to the floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, as has been pointed out, this is legislation that is the result of the hard work of the Small Business Committee here in the House, the Appropriations Committee here in the House, along with the United States Senate.

What this does, as has been pointed out, is simply allows the 7(a) lending program to continue on. It is a program that doesn't cost the taxpayers any money, and, yet, it allows the Small Business Administration to lend money to thousands of small businesses all across this country to keep the economy growing, to keep jobs being created.

And as chairman of the subcommittee that oversees and funds this program, the SBA, let me assure my colleagues that this will not require any additional appropriations this year.

It would simply lift the cap, as has been pointed out, let this continue on, and, again, do the good job that the SBA does.

So I urge my colleagues to support this. I thank everyone involved that has worked in such a timely manner to make this happen so quickly so that we don't interrupt the lending that goes on.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2499, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2015.

The Small Business Administration 7(a) Loan Program is a critical source of capital for America's entrepreneurs and is SBA's largest and most important program in terms of the number of loans and programs supported.

My home State of Michigan, where I am proud to serve as the congressional Representative, has benefited greatly from the SBA 7(a) Loan Program.

In fiscal year 2013, the SBA guaranteed nearly 2,000 loans to Michigan small businesses through the 7(a) Loan Program for more than $500 million. Michigan ranked second in the Nation that year for all SBA loans.

Even better, in fiscal year 2014, the SBA guaranteed more than 2,000 loans to Michigan small businesses, for more than $600 million. This was an increase of 17 percent over the previous fiscal year.

This immensely successful program continues to show strong success, with loan volume up 20 percent this year over last year.

Unfortunately, the lending cap established in the 2015 omnibus appropriations bills of about $18 billion was reached last week.

That means that roughly $3 billion in loan programs needed for small American businesses have been stalled, putting America's entrepreneurs at a serious financial risk.

H.R. 2499 will reopen the crucially needed 7(a) Loan Program for America's small businesses and provide a fee waiver for our Nation's veterans who are seeking new careers after service to our country.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill that would raise the cap of 7(a) loans to over $23 billion.

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership on this issue. I strongly urge my

colleagues to join me in supporting the underlying bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. TAKAI), the ranking member on the Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee.

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank Chairman CHABOT and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the 7(a) program reached its loan guarantee program limit for the year. As a result, the Small Business Administration was forced to suspend its 7(a) small business lending until the start of the new fiscal year or until such time as the 7(a) program is reauthorized or increased by Congress.

□ 1730

Over 20 of my colleagues joined me in sending a letter to Speaker BOEHNER asking to bring this legislation to the floor to raise this limit before Congress goes on its August work period break.

While I am thankful that we are finally doing this, it only speaks to the pattern of inaction that has plagued us here in Congress. Right now, because of this inaction, small businesses across the country are facing the uncertainty of where their next loan will come from.

Lenders use the 7(a) program to fund working capital and other critical needs to small businesses, and the SBA provides a backstop by guaranteeing this loan in case the borrower defaults.

Due to restrictive marketing conditions, SBA programs like the 7(a) loan program have seen an increase in usage by small businesses, making it more imperative that the lending limit be increased for this program. As you know, Mr. Speaker, over 90 percent of the American businesses are considered small and make up the backbone of our Nation's economy.

It is critical to note that the 7(a) program is funded entirely by guarantee fees paid by the program beneficiaries, not taxpayer dollars. Increasing this loan limit will not increase our national debt or deficit, but it will mean that small businesses can get access to the credit they need to expand and create jobs in our communities. Without SBA loan options, millions of small businesses will have to resort to practices not in their best interest.

I came to Congress assuring my constituents that we would break this pattern of crisis and do our jobs. This shouldn't be a last-minute issue. Let's be sure our small businesses have the resources they need to continue being the engine of our economy.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Evidence points to an economy that is slowly but surely on the mend. The Federal Reserve reports banks are more willing to lend and small business demand is clearly picking up at an accelerated pace. This month alone, SBA has guaranteed over $3 billion in the 7(a) program—an all-time record.

Providing the Agency with additional lending authority will ensure creditworthy firms will continue to have access to low cost capital for the rest of the fiscal year.

I want to again thank Chairman CHABOT for working with me to bring this bill to the floor.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), our ranking member on the Small Business Committee, for her cooperation and her hard work in making sure that we resolve this sticky issue and that small businesses across the country who need access to capital will get that access. So I definitely want to make sure that it is recognized that we have been working on this in a bipartisan and cooperative effort.

I again want to stress that it is critical that we pass H.R. 2499 today for the benefit of both our veterans and also the benefit of the entire small business community, which right now is unable to obtain loans from the flagship SBA 7(a) lending program since last Friday.

I would also note that there are reforms in this bill so that the SBA has to bring notice to Congress to let us know up front next time and not wait until the eleventh hour to notify Congress that they are in trouble. Hopefully, this will resolve this so that we don't see this in the future, that we will get notification on a fairly regular basis and not put the elected representatives of the American people in this kind of dilemma where we have to act at the last minute and that we basically put small businesses all across the country in jeopardy of not having access to loans.

As we know, by pushing this forward along with the veterans bill, which, in essence, waived the fee that they would have had to pay so that veterans have access to loans that they need to grow a business or to create businesses since they have worn the uniform of our country, we certainly need to do everything we can to help them, and this bill does that as well.

As has been mentioned by Mr. TAKAI and others, this does not cost the taxpayers any additional dollars because the money for this is generated from the fees of those who take advantage of the program, so it is a win-win all around.

I urge my colleagues to vote to concur on the Senate amendment to H.R. 2499, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2499.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

S. 1482, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1656, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2770, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1482) to improve and reauthorize provisions relating to the application of the antitrust laws to the award of need-based educational aid, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 0, not voting 55, as follows:

[Roll No. 467]

YEAS—378

Abraham	Benishek	Bost
Adams	Bera	Boustany
Aderholt	Beyer	Boyle, Brendan F.
Aguilar	Bilirakis	Brady (TX)
Allen	Bishop (GA)	Brat
Amash	Bishop (MI)	Bridenstine
Ashford	Bishop (UT)	Brooks (AL)
Babin	Black	Brooks (IN)
Barletta	Blackburn	Brown (FL)
Barr	Blumenauer	Brownley (CA)
Barton	Bonamici	

Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—55

Amodei
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Blum
Brady (PA)
Butterfield
Carter (TX)
Clawson (FL)
Cleaver
Cohen
Conyers
Fudge
Gabbard
Gibbs
Gosar
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Huelskamp
Jackson Lee
Johnson, E. B.
Joyce
Kelly (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Labrador
Lee
Lieu, Ted
Love
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Maloney, Sean
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Nugent
Pittenger
Rangel
Renacci
Richmond
Roskam
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Slaughter
Stewart
Stivers
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Wagner
Walden

□ 1857

Ms. MCCOLLUM changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR LAFAYETTE SHOOTING VICTIMS

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart in the aftermath of a terrible and horrific act of violence that killed two innocent victims and injured nine others in my hometown of Lafayette, Louisiana, last Thursday night.

Lafayette, my hometown, is known for its joie de vivre. We work together. We play hard together. It is a great community, close-knit, and has been recognized as the happiest city in America by an organization.

But last Thursday our community was shaken to the core as a man, a lone gunman, opened fire at the Grand Theatre on Johnston Street, killing Jillian Johnson, a 31-year-old musician, local artist, and local businesswoman, and Mayci Breaux, 21, a radiology student. Nine others were injured in this attack; senseless, horrible violence.

It would have been a lot worse if not for the heroics of our law enforcement, who moved promptly on the scene and got control of the situation.

But I want to relay one other instance of heroic activity. One schoolteacher jumped in front of another schoolteacher to save her life and literally did. Both were injured. One of them had the wherewithal to hit the alarm to signal that something bad was happening.

Last night I attended a vigil for the victims at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, where our community took time to reflect upon the lives that were lost.

Now, as our community tries to make sense and come to grips with what happened, I just simply ask my colleagues to stand with me and my colleagues from our Louisiana delegation and with the community of Lafayette for a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will please stand and observe a moment of silence.

SECRET SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1656) to provide for additional resources for the Secret Service, and to improve protections for restricted areas, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 365, nays 16, not voting 52, as follows:

[Roll No. 468]

YEAS—365

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Ashford
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores

Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—16

Amash
Babin
Burgess
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Engel
Grothman
Jones
Lummis
Massie
McClintock
Mulvaney
Rice (SC)
Sanford
Weber (TX)
Yoho

NOT VOTING—52

Amodei
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Blum
Brady (PA)
Butterfield
Carter (TX)
Clawson (FL)
Cleaver
Cohen
Conyers
Fudge
Gabbard
Gibbs
Gosar
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Huelskamp
Jackson Lee
Johnson, E. B.
Kelly (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Labrador
Lee
Lieu, Ted
Love
Lujan Grisham (NM)
McNerney
Meeks
Moore
Nugent
Pittenger
Rangel
Renacci
Richmond
Roskam
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Slaughter
Stewart
Stivers
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Wagner
Walden

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1902

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KEEPING OUR TRAVELERS SAFE AND SECURE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2770) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain maintenance of security-related technology at airports, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 0, not voting 53, as follows:

[Roll No. 469]

YEAS—380

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—53

Amodei	Hinojosa	Rangel
Bass	Huelskamp	Renacci
Beatty	Jackson Lee	Richmond
Becerra	Jenkins (WV)	Roskam
Blum	Johnson, E. B.	Roybal-Allard
Brady (PA)	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Butterfield	Kirkpatrick	Sanchez, Loretta
Carter (TX)	Labrador	Sewell (AL)
Clawson (FL)	Lee	Sires
Cleaver	Lieu, Ted	Slaughter
Cohen	Love	Stewart
Conyers	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Stivers
Fudge	McNerney	Thompson (MS)
Gabbard	Meeks	Tiberi
Gibbs	Moore	Tipton
Gosar	Nugent	Turner
Green, Al	Pittenger	Wagner
Gutiérrez		Walden

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1915

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following votes: S. 1482—Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on this bill; H.R. 1656—Secret Service Improvements Act of 2015, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on this bill; and H.R. 2770—Keeping our Travelers Safe and Secure Act, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during the votes on S. 1482, H.R. 1656 and H.R. 2770, I was inescapably detained and away handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on all of the aforementioned bills.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 467 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 1482), 468 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1656), 469 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2270), I was unavoidably detained and did not cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted, ''yea'' on all three votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, July 27, 2015, I was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 467, 468, or 469 due to weather-related travel delays. If I had been in attendance, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall vote 467, ''no'' on rollcall vote 468, and ''yes'' on rollcall vote 469.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on July 27, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall votes 467, 468, and 469.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 427, REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 30, 2015, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7, 2015; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114–230) on the resolution (H. Res. 380) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 427) to amend Chapter 8 of Title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law; providing for proceedings during the period from July 30, 2015, through September 7, 2015; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE MONUMENTS MEN

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 64, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 64

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE MONUMENTS MEN.

Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on October 22, 2015, for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the Monuments Men collectively, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 836

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Representative CLARK of Massachusetts be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 836.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 675) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2015, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 675

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

SEC. 101. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2015, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30,

2015, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2015, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 102. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 101(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2016.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SEC. 201. EXTENDING TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

Section 7253(i)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''January 1, 2013'' and inserting ''January 1, 2020''.

SEC. 202. RECALL OF RETIRED JUDGES OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

Paragraph (1) of section 7257(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(1)(A) The chief judge may recall for further service on the Court a recall-eligible retired judge in accordance with this section. Such a recall shall be made upon written certification by the chief judge that substantial service is expected to be performed by the retired judge for such period, not to exceed 90 days (or the equivalent), as determined by the chief judge to be necessary to meet the needs of the Court.

''(B)(i) A recall-eligible judge may request that the chief judge recall the recall-eligible judge for a period of service of not less than 90 days (or the equivalent).

''(ii) The chief judge shall approve a request made by a recall-eligible judge pursuant to clause (i) unless the chief judge certifies, in writing, that the Court does not have—

''(I) sufficient work to assign such recall-eligible judge during the period of recalled service; or

''(II) sufficient resources to provide to such recall-eligible judge appropriate administrative and office support.

''(iii) At any time during the period of recalled service of a judge who is recalled pursuant to clause (i), the chief judge may terminate such recalled service if the chief judge makes a written certification described in clause (ii).''.

SEC. 203. LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM RELATING TO JUDGES OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7281 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) For purposes of chapter 87 of title 5, a judge who is in regular active service and a judge who is retired under section 7296 of this title or under chapter 83 or 84 of title 5 shall be treated as an employee described in section 8701(a)(5) of title 5.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any payment made on or after the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 204. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENLARGE SURVIVORS' ANNUITY.

Section 7297 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(p)(1) A covered judge who makes an election under subsection (b) may purchase, in three-month increments, up to an additional year of service credit for each year of Federal judicial service completed, under the terms set forth in this section.

''(2) In this subsection, the term 'covered judge' means any of the following:

''(A) A judge in regular active service.

''(B) A retired judge who is a recall-eligible retired judge pursuant to subsection (a) of section 7257 of this title.

''(C) A retired judge who would be a recall-eligible retired judge pursuant to subsection (a) of section 7257 but for—

''(i) meeting the aggregate recall service requirements under subsection (b)(3) of such section; or

''(ii) being permanently disabled as described by subsection (b)(4) of such section.''.

SEC. 205. SALARIES OF JUDGES OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

Section 7253(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''district courts'' and inserting ''courts of appeals''.

SEC. 206. SELECTION OF CHIEF JUDGE OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.

Section 7253(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

''(B) are 64 years of age or under and have at least three years remaining in term of office; and''; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2)(A) In any case in which there is no judge of the Court in regular active service who meets the requirements under paragraph (1), the judge of the Court in regular active service who is senior in commission and meets subparagraph (A) or (B) and subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) shall act as the chief judge.

''(B) In any case under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph in which there is no judge of the Court in regular active service who meets subparagraph (A) or (B) and subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1), the judge of the Court in regular active service who is senior in commission and meets subparagraph (C) shall act as the chief judge.''.

TITLE III—IMPROVEMENT OF CLAIMS PROCESSING

SEC. 301. INTERIM PAYMENTS OF COMPENSATION BENEFITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 51 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 5127. Interim payments of compensation benefits

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a claim described in subsection (b), prior to adjudicating the claim, the Secretary shall make interim payments of monetary benefits to the claimant based on any disability for which the Secretary has made a decision or, with respect to such a disability that is not compensable, notify the claimant of the rating relating to such disability. Upon the adjudication of the claim, the Secretary shall pay to the claimant any monetary benefits awarded to the claimant for the period of payment under section 5111 of this title less the amount of such benefits paid to the claimant under this section.

''(b) CLAIM DESCRIBED.—A claim described in this subsection is a claim for disability compensation under chapter 11 of this title (including a claim regarding an increased rating)—

''(1) the adjudication of which requires the Secretary to make decisions with respect to two or more disabilities; and

''(2) for which, before completing the adjudication of the claim, the Secretary makes a decision with respect to a disability that would result in the payment of monetary benefits to the claimant upon the adjudication of the claim.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to such subchapter the following new item:

''5127. Interim payments of compensation benefits.''.

SEC. 302. CLAIMS PROCESSORS TRAINING.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a training program to provide newly hired claims processors of the Department of Veterans Affairs with training for a period of not less than two years. In carrying out such program, the Secretary shall identify successful claims processors of the Department who can assist in the training of newly hired claims processors.

(b) ABILITY TO PROCESS CLAIMS.—The Secretary shall carry out the training program established under subsection (a) without increasing the amount of time in which claims are processed by the Department.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 303. NOTICE OF AVERAGE TIMES FOR PROCESSING CLAIMS AND PERCENTAGE OF CLAIMS APPROVED.

(a) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall post the information described in subsection (c)—

(1) in a conspicuous place in each regional office and claims intake facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(2) on the Internet Web site of the Department.

(b) NOTICE TO APPLICANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to each person who submits a claim for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary before the person submits such claim—

(A) notice of the information described in subsection (c); and

(B) notice that the person is eligible to receive up to an extra year of benefits payments if the person files a claim that is fully developed.

(2) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE.—Each person who submits a claim for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary shall include in such application a signed form acknowledging that the person received the information described in subsection (c).

(c) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The information described in this subsection is the following:

(A) The average processing time of the claims described in paragraph (2) and the percentage of such submitted claims for which benefits are awarded.

(B) The percentage of each of the following types of submitted claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for which benefits are awarded:

(i) Claims filed by veterans who authorized a veterans service organization to act on the veterans' behalf under a durable power of attorney.

(ii) Claims filed by veterans who authorized a person other than a veterans service organization to act on the veterans' behalf under a durable power of attorney.

(iii) Claims filed by veterans who did not authorize a person to act on the veterans' behalf under a durable power of attorney.

(2) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—The claims described in this paragraph are each of the following types of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

(A) A fully developed claim that is submitted in standard electronic form.

(B) A fully developed claim that is submitted in standard paper form.

(C) A claim that is not fully developed that is submitted in standard electronic form.

(D) A claim that is not fully developed that is submitted in standard paper form.

(E) A claim that is not fully developed that is submitted in non-standard paper form.

(3) UPDATE OF INFORMATION.—The information described in this subsection shall be updated not less frequently than once each fiscal quarter.

TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 401. CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS OF CERTAIN ACCRUED BENEFITS UPON DEATH OF BENEFICIARY.

(a) ELIGIBILITY OF ESTATE.—Section 5121(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', or estate,'' after ''person''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) The estate of the veteran (unless the estate will escheat).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the death of an individual on or after the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 402. OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY.

(a) TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE.—Chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 145. Veterans Day

''The President shall issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe two minutes of silence on Veterans Day in honor of the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout the history of the Nation, beginning at—

''(1) 3:11 p.m. Atlantic standard time;

''(2) 2:11 p.m. eastern standard time;

''(3) 1:11 p.m. central standard time;

''(4) 12:11 p.m. mountain standard time;

''(5) 11:11 a.m. Pacific standard time;

''(6) 10:11 a.m. Alaska standard time; and

''(7) 9:11 a.m. Hawaii-Aleutian standard time.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''145. Veterans Day.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 675, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 675, as amended. The bill includes several important provisions that would help our Nation's veterans, including the annual COLA increase, changes to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, requirements for VA to pay accrued benefits to the estate of a deceased veteran, improvements to claims processing, and would encourage Americans to observe 2 minutes of silence to honor our Nation's heroes on Veterans Day.

Mr. Speaker, many disabled veterans and their families depend on VA benefits to pay for their housing, their food, and other necessities. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that VA benefits keep pace with the rate of inflation so that our Nation's heroes are able to make ends meet.

The original text of H.R. 675, introduced by the chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, Dr. Abraham, would authorize the annual COLA increase to veterans disability compensation rates and other benefits.

The amount of the increase will be determined by the Consumer Price Index, which also establishes the COLA for Social Security beneficiaries.

H.R. 675, as amended, would also incorporate legislation that was originally introduced by Representative COSTELLO that would modernize our Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, or CAVC, to ensure that the CAVC is able to meet the anticipated increase in the number of appeals that are coming over the next few years.

To address this problem, the bill would extend the temporary expansion of the CAVC from seven to nine judges through 2020. The bill would also authorize the chief judge to recall retired judges to serve more than 90 days, if necessary. These two changes would help ensure that the CAVC is able to continue deciding cases in a timely fashion.

Additionally, H.R. 675, as amended, would revise the qualifications for the chief judge and make CAVC judges eligible for the same salaries, life insurance programs, and retirement service credit benefits that are offered to other Federal appellate court judges.

H.R. 675, as amended, also includes provisions introduced by Representative TITUS that would help veterans who seek disability benefits for more than one medical condition. VA would be required to make interim payments for disabilities found to be service connected while the Department makes determinations with respect to claims for individual conditions that have yet to be adjudicated.

Additionally, this bill would require VA to establish a 2-year training program that would help ensure claims processors have the skills necessary to accurately decide claims for beneficiaries.

The bill would also address another serious problem for veterans and their families, which is that many veterans die before the VA is able to decide their claim for benefits.

Processing a claim for benefits can often take years, and if a veteran dies before VA completes adjudication of the claim, VA currently pays any accrued benefits to qualifying family members, such as spouses, dependent children, and dependent parents. However, if the veteran dies without any surviving qualifying family member, VA simply keeps the benefits.

This legislation, however, includes language authorized by Representative ZELDIN to fix this problem by requiring that VA pay any accrued benefits to the estate of the veteran, unless the estate would escheat. This would ensure that adult children and other beneficiaries of the veteran's estate will receive the benefits to which the veteran was legally entitled.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill incorporates a bill by my friend Representative LYNCH that would help remind the American public of the true meaning of Veterans Day.

H.R. 675, as amended, would direct the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe a 2-minute moment of silence in honor of our Nation's veterans' service and their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, too, rise in support of H.R. 675, as amended, which serves to provide an increase in the benefit payments for our veterans, as well as for their families and survivors.

I thank the chairman and Ranking Member BROWN for their help and their work on this important legislation.

Since 1976, Congress has consistently increased the rates of basic compensation for disabled veterans and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation, DIC, for their survivors and dependents. This is in order to keep pace with inflation.

However, unlike Social Security cost-of-living adjustments, known commonly as COLAs, Congress must act each year to provide veterans with the benefit adjustments they deserve. This legislation will bring COLA increases for veterans to the same level as Social Security recipients for this year.

This action is very important in the short term, but I look forward to the House also considering H.R. 677, the American Heroes COLA Act of 2015, which I introduced, along with Chairman ABRAHAM. This would eliminate the possibility of congressional gridlock ensnaring the yearly COLA adjustments by making the increases automatic, just like they are for Social Security.

I would like to highlight an additional provision included in H.R. 675 that will also help ensure our veterans receive the benefits they have earned in a more timely fashion. Title 3 of this legislation is the text of H.R. 1414, the Pay As You Rate Act, which I introduced earlier this year.

The VA pays veterans when their complete claim has been reviewed and processed. The Pay as You Rate Act would expedite the benefit claims process for veterans by requiring the VA to pay benefits to veterans as individual components of their claims are reviewed, rather than at the completion of the entire claim.

The average benefits claim for our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans contained over eight separate components. Each medical condition is individually adjudicated, but the veteran only begins receiving benefits when the entire claim has been processed.

The Pay as You Rate Act is a commonsense change that will help reduce the backlog and provide veteran families much-needed financial support. I am pleased it has been included as part of H.R. 675.

This legislation also includes H.R. 2139, introduced by Representative O'ROURKE, which requires the VA to inform veterans of the expected turnaround for VA's various methods of filing a benefits claim. The intent of this legislation is to aid veterans as they determine the most appropriate manner for filing their benefits claim.

Lastly, included in this bill is H.R. 995, introduced by Representative LYNCH. This legislation would honor our veterans by formalizing a Veterans Day moment of silence across the Nation.

Again, I thank the chairman and subcommittee Chairman ABRAHAM for their work on behalf of our Nation's heroes, and I look forward to continuing to work with them in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that all our Nation's veterans are receiving the benefits they have earned and they deserve.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am happy at this time to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO), from the Sixth District of Pennsylvania, who is a member of our committee.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 675, the Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2015. I applaud Chairman MILLER, subcommittee Chairman ABRAHAM, and our committee staff for bringing this commonsense legislation to the floor today.

First, Mr. Speaker, this bill would take a commonsense step to ensure that veterans disability benefits are eligible for cost-of-living adjustments, much like our seniors are eligible for Social Security benefit adjustments.

Next, Mr. Speaker, this bill would take steps towards ensuring that our veterans are able to receive more timely and prompt review of their benefit appeals.

This legislation contains my legislation that I introduced earlier this year, H.R. 1067, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Reform Act.

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This measure is a proactive step to ensure that the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, known as the CAVC, is able to meet the growing demand for review of veterans' claims benefits.

Not only would H.R. 675 ensure that we have an adequate number of appellate judges to handle current and future demand, but it would also ensure that we continue to attract qualified and capable individuals to serve our veterans on this critical panel.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, particularly from my vantage point, the Philadelphia VA regional office has been plagued with claims backlogs, data manipulation, and excessive wait times. It is not only happening at this VA facility. As we continue to fix this mess, we need to make sure that we do all we can to promote and support efficiency within the VA and to ensure that there is no additional interruption in the benefits review process and service provided to our veterans.

To provide a little background, in November 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Veterans' Judicial Review Act into law, which established the CAVC as a court of record within the Federal judiciary. The court has exclusive appellate jurisdiction over decisions of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and it plays a critical role in ensuring the timely and accurate review of veterans' claims.

Currently, the court is authorized to have seven permanent judges and two temporary additional judges; but absent legislative action, the court is expected to revert back to its permanent seven judges without the two additional temporary judges. In order to handle the increase in claims, this legislation would enable the court to maintain nine judges through 2020.

As we continue to see reports of mismanagement, data manipulation, excessive wait times, and lost claims, it is imperative that this measure, as included in H.R. 675, is passed to proactively address potential complications that could hinder the effectiveness and efficiency of the CAVC to review and process veterans' claims. I encourage my colleagues to pass H.R. 675.

I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for introducing the legislation and for working with members of the committee to get this well-rounded, commonsense legislation to the floor.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from the Fifth District of Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM), the chairman of a very critical subcommittee on our Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, I would like to thank the Veterans' Affairs Committee as a whole and leadership on their role in getting this important bill to the floor.

I am proud to have introduced the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015, which is also known as COLA.

The bill provides a cost-of-living adjustment increase to the veterans' disability compensation and other veterans' benefits for 2016. The amount of the increase is the same given to Social Security beneficiaries.

We all understand how important it is for the VA benefits to keep pace with the rate of inflation, and our Nation's veterans depend on these benefits to pay for housing, food, and other necessities. Congress has previously passed similar increases with wide bipartisan support because both parties see the need in making sure that our American heroes are cared for, which they most markedly deserve.

I would also like to thank the ranking member, Representative TITUS, for her support as an original cosponsor of H.R. 675.

These benefits are instrumental in supporting those who have honorably served our Nation. Passing the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015 provides our veterans with much-needed peace of mind so that they know their benefits will be secure each year.

We must demand the highest protection of our veterans and their financial security. Our veterans are our Nation's heroes; and this bill, which enjoys bipartisan support, gives Congress a chance to give back to those who have already given so much. I urge the full passage of this bill, H.R. 675.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the First District of the State of New York (Mr. ZELDIN), another valued member of our committee.

Mr. ZELDIN. I thank the chairman for his leadership on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and for his unyielding passion toward always putting veterans first.

I thank the great staff as well on both sides of the aisle with the Veterans' Affairs Committee. It is a pleasure to serve with all of them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in support of H.R. 675, which has been amended to include my bill, H.R. 1569, the Veterans Estate Transfer to Survivors Act, or the VETS Act.

I am honored to represent the First Congressional District of New York, which is located on the east end of Long Island. My district is in the County of Suffolk, which has the largest veterans population of any county in New York and the second highest in the entire country. With so many veterans in my home county, I am extremely proud to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

With the passage of H.R. 675, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015, which has been amended to include my bill, H.R. 1569, veterans are securing a big victory here in the Halls of Congress.

The VETS Act is a commonsense reform to the VA benefit payouts that will help veterans and their families on Long Island and across the country as my legislation would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay certain benefits that were earned by a veteran to the veteran's estate.

Under current law, if a veteran passes away while the VA is still reviewing a claim, the VA no longer has to award the earned benefits. Currently, only a veteran's spouse, minor child, or dependent parent is eligible to collect the accrued benefits. By adding the estate to the current list of beneficiaries, adult children can now also receive the benefits earned should there be no other qualifying family members.

My bill ensures our veteran families, who rightfully earned and deserve their benefits, actually receive their benefits even after the veteran passes away. I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 675.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I simply urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 675, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I also urge the passage of H.R. 675, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 675, the Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

This is an important bill that provides a critical cost-of-living increase for the service-connected disability compensation that our disabled veterans need and deserve. In addition, it makes other needed changes to a number of programs administered by the VA to ensure that they better meet the needs of our veterans and their families.

I am pleased that H.R. 675, as amended by the Veterans Affairs Committee, includes the text of my bill, H.R. 995, the ''Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act.'' This bipartisan legislation calls for two minutes of silence every Veterans Day. Its set time of 2:11 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, allows all Americans from coast to coast and Puerto Rico to come together to reflect on the service of our veterans, past and present. Generations of brave men and women have served our nation with honor: risking their lives to keep us safe and free. They deserve our support and, most of all our gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, there are few words that can do justice to the magnitude of what our servicemembers have done throughout our history, and continue to do for us every day. They leave their families and loved ones behind, and go to some of the world's most dangerous places. They risk their health and their lives to serve and defend the nation we all love. I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting with some of them in my travels abroad and I am always moved by their dedication, their professionalism, and their courage.

I would like to thank Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member BROWN for including the language of ''The Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act'' to this bill. I also wish to recognize and thank the Bendetson family who first approached me with the concept of this tribute. Daniel and Michael Bendetson, along with their father, Dr. Peter Bendetson, have worked tirelessly for years to bring this proposal to fruition. Finally, I would most like to thank all the veterans in my district and across America, in whose honor I am proud to have introduced this legislation.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 675.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 675, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RUTH MOORE ACT OF 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1607) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1607

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Ruth Moore Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. REPORTS ON CLAIMS FOR DISABILITIES INCURRED OR AGGRAVATED BY MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VI of chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 1164. Reports on claims for disabilities incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma

''(a) REPORTS.—Not later than December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter through 2019, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on covered claims submitted during the previous fiscal year.

''(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

''(1) The number of covered claims submitted to or considered by the Secretary during the fiscal year covered by the report.

''(2) Of the covered claims listed under paragraph (1), the number and percentage of such claims—

''(A) submitted by each sex;

''(B) that were approved, including the number and percentage of such approved claims submitted by each sex; and

''(C) that were denied, including the number and percentage of such denied claims submitted by each sex.

''(3) Of the covered claims listed under paragraph (1) that were approved, the number and percentage, listed by each sex, of claims assigned to each rating percentage.

''(4) Of the covered claims listed under paragraph (1) that were denied—

''(A) the three most common reasons given by the Secretary under section 5104(b)(1) of this title for such denials; and

''(B) the number of denials that were based on the failure of a veteran to report for a medical examination.

''(5) The number of covered claims that, as of the end of the fiscal year covered by the report, are pending and, separately, the number of such claims on appeal.

''(6) For the fiscal year covered by the report, the average number of days that covered claims take to complete beginning on the date on which the claim is submitted.

''(7) A description of the training that the Secretary provides to employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration specifically with respect to covered claims, including the frequency, length, and content of such training.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'covered claims' means claims for disability compensation submitted to the Secretary based on a covered mental health condition alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

''(2) The term 'covered mental health condition' means post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, or other mental health diagnosis described in the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association that the Secretary determines to be related to military sexual trauma.

''(3) The term 'military sexual trauma' means, with respect to a veteran, psychological trauma, which in the judgment of a mental health professional, resulted from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred during active military, naval, or air service.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''1164. Reports on claims for disabilities incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.''.

(3) INITIAL REPORT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress an initial report described in section 1164 of title 38, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), by not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Such initial report shall be in addition to the annual reports required under such section beginning in December 2015.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should update and improve the regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to military sexual trauma by—

(1) ensuring that military sexual trauma is specified as an in-service stressor in determining the service-connection of post-traumatic stress disorder by including military sexual trauma as

a stressor described in section 3.304(f)(3) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(2) recognizing the full range of physical and mental disabilities (including depression, anxiety, and other disabilities as indicated in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association) that can result from military sexual trauma.

(c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—During the period beginning on the date that is 15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the Secretary updates and improves regulations as described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) provide to each veteran who has submitted a covered claim or been treated for military sexual trauma at a medical facility of the Department with a copy of the report under subsection (a)(3) or section 1164 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), that has most recently been submitted to Congress;

(2) provide on a monthly basis to each veteran who has submitted any claim for disability compensation or been treated at a medical facility of the Department information that includes—

(A) the date that the Secretary plans to complete such updates and improvements to such regulations;

(B) the number of covered claims that have been granted or denied during the month covered by such information;

(C) a comparison to such rate of grants and denials with the rate for other claims regarding post-traumatic stress disorder;

(D) the three most common reasons for such denials;

(E) the average time for completion of covered claims;

(F) the average time for processing covered claims at each regional office; and

(G) any information the Secretary determines relevant with respect to submitting a covered claim;

(3) in addition to providing to veterans the information described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall make available on a monthly basis such information on a conspicuous location of the Internet website of the Department; and

(4) submit to Congress on a monthly basis a report that includes—

(A) a list of all adjudicated covered claims, including ancillary claims, during the month covered by the report;

(B) the outcome with respect to each medical condition included in the claim; and

(C) the reason given for any denial of such a claim.

(d) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA DEFINED.—In this section:

(1) The term ''covered claim'' has the meaning given that term in section 1164(c)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

(2) The term ''military sexual trauma'' has the meaning given that term in section 1164(c)(3) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES PAID TO SENIOR EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 705 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 703 note) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', of which, during fiscal years 2016 through 2018, not more than an aggregate amount of $2,000,000 in each such fiscal year may be paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who are members of the Senior Executive Service.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to add any extraneous material that they may have on H.R. 1607, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 1607, as amended, which would help veterans who are seeking benefits for conditions that arose as a result of military sexual trauma, or MST.

Tragically, MST has been a serious problem in the U.S. military; although, in recent years, the DOD has been taking steps to reduce these assaults. We owe it to our veterans who are subject to personal assaults during their military service to ensure that the VA expeditiously and accurately processes mental health claims for conditions related to MST, such as depression, anxiety, or PTSD.

Several factors complicate the process for veterans who seek disability compensation for mental health conditions that might arise from MST. The vast majority of sexual assaults in the military are not reported, and even fewer cases are actually prosecuted. As a result, many veterans find it hard to prove that the assaults actually occurred; therefore, service connection is often difficult to establish.

H.R. 1607, as amended, which was introduced by Representative PINGREE, would also express the sense of Congress that the VA should update and improve its regulations with respect to MST.

Although current VA regulations purport to reduce the burden of proof for veterans who file claims for PTSD, in practice, the VA claims processors do not use the broader standard of evidence when adjudicating claims related to MST. Moreover, these regulations do not address mental health conditions, with the exception of PTSD, that might arise as a result of military sexual trauma.

To help Congress conduct better oversight of the VA's processing of MST claims, H.R. 1607, as amended, would require the VA to submit annual reports through 2019. These reports would provide certain data, including the number of military sexual trauma claims approved. The VA would also be required to provide the three most common reasons the Department denies such claims.

Until the VA updates and improves its regulations with respect to MST claims, the Department would be required to provide each veteran who has submitted an MST claim or has been treated for MST with a copy of the report most recently submitted to Congress. The VA would have to provide monthly updates on the status of the changes to the regulations to both Congress and the veterans who are affected.

Finally, H.R. 1607, as amended, would limit awards and bonuses paid to the VA employees who are members of the Senior Executive Service to not more than an aggregate of $2 million for each of the next 3 years.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1607, as amended, the Ruth Moore Act of 2015.

This very important legislation, which was introduced by my friend, Representative CHELLIE PINGREE of Maine, seeks to improve services for the men and women who have been the victims of military sexual trauma. In particular, this legislation sends a loud and clear message to the VA by requiring the Department to update its regulations to better serve veterans affected by MST.

Current VA regulations related to MST are outdated and do not reflect the needs of those who have lived through such awful experiences. The VA's existing policy is to update regulations periodically as they see fit. However, information we have received indicates that the VA needs to do more for these veterans.

Recently, the VA revised their regulations in order to do the right thing for veterans exposed to Agent Orange on aircraft, which will result in better health care and benefits for those veterans who are suffering from exposure to the toxin. We now expect the VA to do the same thing for the men and women affected by military sexual trauma. They, too, deserve the proper health care and adequate benefits. They deserve them today, not tomorrow.

As we provide for the victims of MST, however, we must also work on ways to both eliminate it from our armed services and change the culture of the military.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

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Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her great work on this issue.

I also want to thank Chairman MILLER, Chairman ABRAHAM, Ranking Member BROWN, and my good friend, Ranking Member TITUS, for all their work on this piece of bipartisan legislation. I think it is clear this committee is truly working for our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, almost every day I hear from another veteran who is the survivor of sexual assault in the military,

men and women of all ages and from every branch of the service.

I have heard from survivors of sexual assault from World War II, the war in Afghanistan, and every conflict in every era in between. There are veterans who are suffering from PTSD because they were sexually assaulted, and they are not being treated fairly.

With this bill, we are fighting to hold the VA accountable and making sure that they are following through on their promises.

The VA has acknowledged that PTSD from combat is a real injury and needs to be treated that way, and it should be the same for those who suffer from PTSD from sexual assault.

A Pentagon report showed 19,000 women and men were sexually assaulted in the military just last year, but only about a quarter of those assaults were reported and even fewer ended up with a prosecution.

I am glad the Defense Department and the VA has increased training and prevention efforts around rape and harassment, but let me be clear. As you have already heard, the problem is not fixed.

Survivors of sexual assault have been blamed and harassed, crimes have been covered up, and survivors themselves have been the subject of further harassment and recrimination. In the latest Pentagon report, 62 percent of the individuals who reported sexual assault have also reported retaliation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for a minute about a very brave woman, Ruth Moore, a veteran from Maine and the person who we named this bill for.

Ruth fought for 23 years before she was finally given the benefits we owed her. When I met her in my office in Maine 4 years ago, she could barely tell her story.

Bit by bit, she has rebuilt her trust of people in positions of responsibility to the point where she is able to tell her story publicly. There are thousands and thousands of Ruth Moores out there who have been fighting for their benefits for years or even decades.

The Ruth Moore Act of 2015 is an important next step in ensuring that the VA treats these veterans fairly. To be clear, this bill does not create any new benefits for survivors of sexual assault or give special treatment to the survivors of sexual assault. This bill just tries to level the playing field, to hold the VA accountable, and ensure these veterans are treated fairly.

We were able to pass this bill in the last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to do so again this time around. This issue is too important. It cannot be ignored.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Ruth Moore Act. In 2012, 1 in 5 female and 1 in 100 male veterans told the VA that they had experienced sexual abuse while serving in the military.

Yet, despite egregious prevalence of sexual abuse in the military, it remains difficult for veterans to receive disability benefits as a result of their military sexual trauma.

In 2013, the Service Women's Action Network, the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic, the ACLU, and the ACLU of Connecticut released a report that shows that veterans who experienced sexual assault have their benefits claims denied more often than veterans with other types of PTSD claims.

The report also found the rate of granting these claims varied greatly, depending upon the VA regional office.

The St. Paul, Minnesota, office granted only 26 percent of the MST claims they received, while the office in Los Angeles granted more than 88 percent of the claims they received.

Last year the U.S. Government Accountability Office backed up these findings. GAO found approval rates ranged from 14 percent to 88 percent at different regional offices.

The GAO also found that some medical examiners examining these claims required more evidence than others to establish these claims.

The Ruth Moore Act we are considering today would require that the VA report data on military sexual trauma claims to Congress.

While this reporting is a good step forward and could lead to more consistency and transparency in claims processing, I am disappointed that we are not considering Representative PINGREE's original bill, which would have also made it easier for survivors of military sexual trauma to make their case and made the claims process more uniform.

This bill is named after Ruth Moore, a Maine constituent of Representative PINGREE who spent more than 20 years fighting for her own benefits. Other survivors should not be made to repeat her battle.

I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time. So I would just simply urge my colleagues to support passage of the Ruth Moore Act of 2015, H.R. 1607, as amended, and to provide support to the victims of MST who have so bravely served our Nation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 1607, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1607, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 876. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals to provide certain notifications to individuals classified by such hospitals under observation status rather than admitted as inpatients of such hospitals.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. I rise to thank the members of the Lake County Board for issuing a resolution designating July 26, 2015, as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day.

The Americans with Disabilities Act was in response to an appalling problem, widespread discrimination against people with disabilities.

Over the past 25 years, the ADA has had a profound impact across our country, requiring accessibility and banning discrimination all across America.

In Lake County, we are fortunate to have many great organizations that provide resources to people with disabilities and their families.

I particularly want to recognize the Lake County Center for Independent Living, an organization that provides free life skills training, employment training, and advocacy services to disabled individuals in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the Lake County Board to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act, and I remain committed to working for policies that prohibit discrimination of all kinds.

MEDICARE'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, access to affordable, quality health care is a fundamental value, and Medicare and Medicaid have helped millions of Americans live with economic security and dignity for 50 years.

President Lyndon Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law in 1965 on the basic principles that access to health care is a right, not a privilege, and certainly no one should be forced into poverty because of healthcare costs.

Thirty-four percent of those in New York's capital region that I represent

depends on these programs, and we must do everything we can here in the House to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid.

No programs have changed the lives of Americans more over the last 50 years. We cannot strengthen these programs. We cannot ensure the long-term survival of these programs by passing budgets that turn Medicaid into block grants or Medicare into a voucher system.

Medicare and Medicaid save lives, help people live longer, and provide the peace of mind that comes with affordable health care that is there when you need it most.

Moving forward, I hope the House breaks with its recent tradition and works together to pass meaningful legislation that boosts these programs, like the Affordable Care Act.

Happy 50th birthday, Medicare. Happy 50th birthday, Medicaid. Here's to many, many more.

QUESTIONS FROM TEXANS ABOUT THE IRANIAN DEAL

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have asked people on my Facebook page what they think about the Iranian deal. Here are a few of the 300 responses.

Tammy says: Why were our hostages left out of the negotiation? Why even trust Iran at all to live up to the deal when they hate America?

John says: Why are there no American inspectors? Why no instant inspections?

Jacob says: Why are they doing a deal with the world's number one state sponsor of terrorism? This used to be called treason.

Carlos says: Ask them if they remember who Neville Chamberlain was and his policy toward Nazi Germany. Giving into Iran has a very similar overtone to what Chamberlain and the world did back then.

Adam says: 24 days' notice, no USA inspectors, no prisoners coming home? No inspection of their most lucrative site? China and Russia can sell them weapons?

Mr. Speaker, the American public wants some candid answers. Tomorrow Mr. Kerry will testify before our Foreign Affairs Committee. Time for some frank, no-double-talk answers from the administration on this Iranian deal.

And that is just the way it is.

RECOVERING MISSING CHILDREN ACT

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, one out of four child abductions in the United States are not committed by a stranger, but instead are perpetrated by a relative.

An inspector general's report has found that tax filings can help locate these missing children nearly half of the time because new addresses can be identified, but law enforcement can't access this critical information.

We owe it to these children to give law enforcement the tools they need in order to find the more than 200,000 children that are kidnapped by family members every year here in the United States.

That is why Congressman COURTNEY and I have introduced the bipartisan Recovering Missing Children Act, which will allow law enforcement, with a court order, to access tax filings that could aid in the search for abducted children.

This legislation has been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the Major County Sheriffs' Association, and the Sergeants Benevolent Association.

Mr. Speaker, this is a zero-cost, commonsense way to cut red tape and help law enforcement bring these missing children home.

RESILIENT FEDERAL FOREST ACT OF 2015

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, well, we have yet another reminder why we need for the Senate to take up H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forest Act of 2015. We need to bring active management back to our forests.

Why is this important? Because now in California as well as the rest of the Western States the fire season is upon us.

In my district, the Lowell fire is burning near Alto, California. It has already consumed over 1,700 acres since Saturday, and it is only 20 percent contained. This is one of 12 fires burning in California. It is unknown how many throughout the West.

Sadly, four firefighters have already been injured in this blaze, two from the State and two from the Federal level. Thankfully, three of the men have been released, though one is still hospitalized with severe burns. Thankfully, they are nonlife-threatening.

Nonetheless, the nonmanagement of our forests are roadblocks that get thrown up by a few environmental groups to the type of wise management we need, especially in the time of drought, especially in the time we have millions of dead trees in the Western States and in California.

They should be thinned. They should be managed. We should have a forest where it will be better for the habitat, better for everybody, and better for everything involved. Instead, we have roadblocks.

We need this bill. We need a much better attitude on managing our forests because, again, this is hurting our firefighters, putting them at unnecessary risk, as well as the homeowners in the area, the wildlife, the habitat, and the economy that used to come from those areas.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and for the balance of the week on account of a family emergency.

Mr. COHEN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a flight delay due to weather.

Ms. GABBARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a flight delay.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and tomorrow on account of official business.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through July 29 on account of official business.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of travel complications.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1626. An act to reduce duplication of information technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2499. An act to amend the Small Business Act to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs, to help create jobs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 28, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first and second quarters of 2015, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO LATVIA, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 26 AND JUNE 29, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	6/27	6/29	Latvia		470.00		12,543.00				13,013.00
Hon. Jim Costa	6/26	6/29	Latvia		470.00		11,132.00				11,602.00
Hon. Eliot Engel	6/27	6/29	Latvia		470.00		5,833.00				6,303.00
Hon. Darrell Issa	6/27	6/29	Latvia		470.00		9,356.00				9,826.00
Hon. Robert Latta	6/27	6/29	Latvia		212.00		4,685.00				4,897.00
Hon. Gregory Meeks	6/27	6/29	Latvia		470.00		9,203.00				9,673.00
Hon. Mike Turner	6/27	6/29	Latvia		470.00		3,684.00				4,154.00
Hon. George Holding	6/27	6/29	Latvia		470.00		3,264.00				3,734.00
Brady Howell	6/27	6/29	Latvia		470.00		6,528.00				6,998.00
Janice Robinson	6/26	6/29	Latvia		695.00		6,528.00				7,223.00
Kyle Parker	6/27	6/29	Latvia		470.00		6,528.00				6,998.00
Phil Bednarczyk	6/27	6/29	Latvia		470.00		6,528.00				6,998.00
Committee total					5,607.00		85,812.00				91,419.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART, July 17, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHARLES W. DENT, Chairman, July 8, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, July 10, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. STEVE CHABOT, Chairman, July 10, 2015.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2292. A letter from the Farm Service Agency Regulatory Review Director, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Conservation Reserve Program (RIN: 0560-AI30) received July 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2293. A letter from the Comptroller, Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Army case number 15-01, as required by 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

2294. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — 2013 Integrated Mortgage Disclosures Rule Under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (Regulation X) and the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) and Amendments; Delay of Effective Date [Docket No.: CFPB-2015-0029] (RIN: 3170-AA48) received July 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2295. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing [Docket No.: FR-5173-F-04] (RIN: 2501-AD33) received July 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2296. A letter from the Deputy Director, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Developmental Disabilities Program (RIN: 0970-AB11) received July 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2297. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Lifeline and

Link Up Reform and Modernization; Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support; Connect America Fund [WC Docket No.: 11-42] [WC Docket No.: 09-197] [WC Docket No.: 10-90] received July 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2298. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Labeling; Nutrition Labeling of Standard Menu Items in Restaurants and Similar Retail Food Establishments; Extension of Compliance Date [Docket No.: FDA-2011-F-0172] (RIN: 0910-AG57) received July 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2299. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications [Docket No.: 150428405-5539-02] (RIN: 0648-XD927) received July 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2300. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2015 and 2016 Commercial Fishing Restrictions for Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No.: 141222999-5561-02] (RIN: 0648-BE71) received July 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2301. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2015 Recreational Accountability Measures and Closure for South Atlantic Snowy Grouper [Docket No.: 0907271173-0629-03] (RIN: 0648-XE014) received July 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2302. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Re-Opening of Commercial Sector for Atlantic Dolphin [Docket No.: 130403322-4454-02] (RIN: 0648-XE017) received July 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2303. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Gulf of Mexico Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Blacknose Sharks and Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks in the Gulf of Mexico Region [Docket No.: 140429387-4971-02] (RIN: 0648-XD954) received July 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2304. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Claims for Credit or Refund [TD 9727] (RIN: 1545-BI36) received July 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2305. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — August 2015 (Rev. Rule. 2015-16) received July 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2306. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revisions to the Employee Plans Determination Letter Program (Announcement 2015-19) received July 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2307. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a letter and attachments satisfying all requirements of Sec. 135(a) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 (Pub. L. 114-17), as received July 19, 2015; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Supplemental report on H.R. 1994. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–225, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1634. A bill to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–226). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 2750. A bill to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, streamline transportation security regulations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–227). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 348. A bill to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–228, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1138. A bill to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–229). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 380. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 427) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law; providing for proceedings during the period from July 30, 2015, through September 7, 2015; and for other purposes (Rept. 114–230). Referred to the House Calendar.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 348. Referral to the Committee on Natural Resources extended for a period ending not later than September 11, 2015.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 3214. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to establish the National Icebreaker Fund to pay the costs of construction, alteration, renovation, lease, or charter of icebreakers for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 3215. A bill to prohibit any person from soliciting or knowingly acquiring, receiving, or accepting a donation of human fetal tissue for any purpose other than disposal of the tissue if the donation affects interstate commerce and the tissue will be or is obtained pursuant to an induced abortion; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 3216. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the emergency hospital care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. FARR):

H.R. 3217. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the adequacy of motor vehicle refueling assistance to individuals with disabilities, to promulgate regulations in accordance with the results of such study, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BASS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERA, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COOK, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms.

LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California):

H.R. 3218. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 836 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara, California as the ''Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis 'Lou' J. Langlais Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 3219. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to provide that post offices shall comply with public accommodation standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DOLD, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 3220. A bill to establish a smart card pilot program under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Mr. MARINO, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BASS, and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 3221. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require States to include information on the academic progress of homeless children and children in foster care in annual State report cards; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HARDY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MESSER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. WOODALL):

H.R. 3222. A bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 3223. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Timothy Nugent, in recognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with disabilities, including disabled veterans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 3224. A bill to regulate the sale of cases and covers that resemble firearms, to amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 with respect to the regulation of toy, look-alike, and imitation firearms, and to provide penalties for a violation of such regulations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 3225. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for enhanced payments to rural health care providers under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 3226. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain companies to disclose information describing any measures the company has taken to identify and address conditions of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor within the company's supply chains; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RUSSELL:

H.R. 3227. A bill to protect the Second Amendment rights of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense trained in the use of firearms to carry officially-issued or personally-owned firearms on military installations in the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 3228. A bill to require that until a comprehensive study is completed, the volume of cellulosic biofuel mandated under the renewable fuel program be limited to what is commercially available, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 3229. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H. Res. 381. A resolution to refer H.R. 3133, a bill making congressional reference to the United States Court of Federal Claims pursuant to sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code, of certain Indian land-related takings claims of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan and its individual members; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H. Res. 382. A resolution expressing the need to eliminate life without parole for children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN (for himself, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. WALKER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DENT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HARDY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. HARPER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. KATKO, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. LATTA, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 383. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the appropriate award of the Purple Heart to the Marines and Sailors killed or wounded in the recent attack at the Navy Operational Support Center and Marine Corps Reserve Center and the Armed Forces Career Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas):

H. Res. 384. A resolution calling for a formal end of the Korean War; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. RYAN of Ohio introduced a bill (H.R. 3230) for the relief of Erdal Dede; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 3214.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 3215.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution states that Congress has the authority to ''regulate Commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states.''

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 3216.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 3217.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 3218.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution, which reads: ''The Congress shall have Power . . . To establish Post Offices and post Roads''

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which reads: ''The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof''

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 3219.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 3220.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(a) Article I, Section 1, to exercise the legislative powers vested in Congress as granted in the Constitution; and

(a) Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the authority ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 3221.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 3222.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

the authority enumerated in Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 3223.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 of the Constitution

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 3224.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. Art. I §8.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 3225.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce) of the Constitution.

The bill makes several changes to the way hospitals are regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This includes transaction between hospitals, CMS, and third parties, which constitutes commerce. Further, Medicare is considered to be constitutional as part of providing for the general welfare and therefore any changes to Medicare would fall under this provision as well.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 3226.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment 13 to the U.S. Constitution—Abolition of Slavery ''Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.''

By Mr. RUSSELL:

H.R. 3227.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment 2: A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 3228.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 3229.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 3230.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

''The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.''

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 27: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 93: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 167: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 419: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 499: Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 546: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 592: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 665: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 676: Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 699: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 702: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.
H.R. 707: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 721: Mr. FLORES and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 729: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 744: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 748: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 757: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 774: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 775: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 776: Mr. CHAFFETZ and Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.
H.R. 789: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 815: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 816: Mr. DENHAM, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 825: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 829: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 840: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 842: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 864: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 865: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 902: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 911: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 918: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 920: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 985: Ms. ADAMS and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1019: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 1027: Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 1062: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 1100: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1107: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1151: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1185: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 1188: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 1211: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1222: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 1226: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1321: Ms. STEFANIK and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1336: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. BARR, and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 1342: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1356: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BEYER, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1384: Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1391: Mr. COHEN and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 1401: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 1422: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1434: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 1475: Mr. ZINKE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 1478: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1515: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1516: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1550: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1559: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. DOLD.
H.R. 1567: Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 1594: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DESANTIS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1604: Mr. ROSS and Mr. ABRAHAM.
H.R. 1608: Ms. SPEIER and Mr. DENT.
H.R. 1624: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BERA, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MESSER, Mr. DENT, and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1628: Mr. POCAN and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 1655: Mr. BENISHEK and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 1684: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1716: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 1721: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1737: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 1839: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 1901: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1937: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1942: Miss RICE of New York, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 1967: Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1974: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1977: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2017: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, and Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 2025: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2026: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2063: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 2096: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 2102: Ms. MCSALLY.
H.R. 2147: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 2205: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 2209: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2243: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 2315: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BRAT, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 2320: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 2328: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 2342: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 2369: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2403: Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 2404: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 2410: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2494: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 2513: Mr. WOMACK and Mr. WESTERMAN.
H.R. 2530: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2540: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2557: Mr. REED.
H.R. 2567: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 2595: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2602: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. MENG, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2624: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 2643: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 2646: Mr. SALMON and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 2653: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. BLACK, and Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 2663: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 2669: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 2680: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2689: Mr. NUNES, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. BERA, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2769: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2775: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 2793: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 2802: Mr. CULBERSON and Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 2805: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 2811: Mr. HONDA, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2824: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2844: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 2847: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 2849: Mr. WELCH, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 2903: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 2911: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. NUNES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 2915: Mr. JONES, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. COFFMAN, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 2920: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2963: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 2973: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 2979: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2984: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 2992: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 3018: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 3029: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 3036: Mr. GIBSON and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3039: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 3040: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 3071: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 3106: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 3108: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3114: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3118: Mr. BLUM, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. RUSSELL.
H.R. 3132: Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 3136: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 3137: Mr. KLINE, Mr. COOK, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3163: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3171: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 3183: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 3189: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. MESSER, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. STUTZMAN.
H.R. 3193: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 3199: Mr. PERRY and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 3209: Ms. MOORE.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. ZINKE.
H.J. Res. 9: Mr. FLEMING.
H.J. Res. 51: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.J. Res. 55: Mr. JONES, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. YOHO, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. MESSER, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.J. Res. 61: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COOK, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 50: Mr. RUSH, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. RUSSELL.
H. Res. 12: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H. Res. 110: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H. Res. 220: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H. Res. 289: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 294: Mr. RIBBLE and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H. Res. 354: Mr. JORDAN, Mr. COFFMAN, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H. Res. 367: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. BUCK, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. TROTT, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. KATKO, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MICA, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H. Res. 379: Mr. BABIN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. COOK, and Mr. RIBBLE.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolution, as follows:

H.R. 836: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

18. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a Citizen of Austin, TX, relative to urging Congress to propose, for ratification by special conventions held within the individual states, an amendment to the United States Constitution which would establish a procedure by which the President of the United States may be removed from office by means of a nationwide recall election; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.